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Olympic Sharks: Ante Milicic celebrates as the ball trickles over the Newcastle United goal line in the Shark's Preliminary Final win at Energy Australia Stadium.

SHARKS NIGHTMARISH WIN BOOSTS GLORY'S TITLE DREAMS

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory coach Mich d'Avray has repudiated cries of a possible decimated Olympic Sharks line-up for this Sunday's NSL Grand Final showdown following the Sydneysiders gallant, yet costly victory over Newcastle United in the preliminary final at Energy Australia Stadium last weekend.

A scrambling ninth minute goal from Ante Milicic before a healthy 17,708 supporters, gave the Sharks their ticket across the Nullarbor to face the NSL Premiers in front of a sell-out crowd at Subiaco Oval.

It was a win however, that came at a price with the Sharks losing star players Ante Juric with a possible dislocated elbow and Troy Halpin (groin) in the opening half. Add the suspension of the clubs other sweeper Andrew Durante plus capable frontman Hiro Ishida, who received a gash above his right-knee, and you can understand why Olympic's rookie coach Gary Philips has every reason to be edgy prior to the clubs biggest game in twelve years.

"If Juric and Durante are both out we don't have a sweeper," said Philips, who was a player in Olympic's last championship triumph, a 2-0 result against Premiers Marconi in the first of the summer seasons — 1989-90.

"Glenn Moore, who probably hasn't played all year, is another sweeper at the club so I have got to think about him. It really is a matter of wait and see, but you can't replace these guys," said the former Tonga national team coach.

Juric elected to return to Sydney on painkillers after turning down a four-hour wait at Newcastle's main hospital. Meanwhile, Glory coach d'Avray has disregarded the news of a likely dearth of potency in the Sharks squad for Australia's biggest

game on the soccer calendar, pointing out that the New South Wales club has a significant talent pool to call upon as well as the fact that the big games always tend to spawn remarkable healing powers.

"Olympic will put out a very able and competitive team out on the park, and so will we," assured d'Avray. "Obviously, Durante can't play because he is suspended, but if there is any chance of the others being able to play, they'll be on the pitch," he said.

"They (Olympic) are the 'money team' of the competition, so they'll have capable and able replacements."

"Besides, their injuries are of no concern to me because we have problems of our own," said d'Avray, referring primarily to midfielder Brad Maloney who has to date failed to overcome an ankle injury from the second leg of the major semi-final against Newcastle and Michael Garcia (hamstring), injured last weekend playing for Future Glory in the local Premier League competition. The exclusion of the two means club captain Gareth Naven could come into the mix after a groin operation at the beginning of the season prevented the tenacious midfielder from reclaiming his spot.

"We are just hoping we can get a good weeks training under our belt without any more problems," said d'Avray, keen to ensure the capacity audience will get their money's worth.

"Generally, cup finals can have a tendency not to see great games of soccer. There is too much at stake, too much riding on the outcome. But with 43,000 people at Subiaco next week, I hope it will be a good spectacle, is entertaining and that the code of soccer is the winner."

Channel Seven will be showing the game live during their Sportswatch program from 3pm AEST (1pm local time).

National League Restructure Put On Hold Till June

By Mark Stavroulakis

"A new model for season 2003/04 will be put in place at the end of June whereby current clubs and new consortiums will have ample time in handing in their profiles."

NSL Commission chairman Remo Nogarotto quoted to ABSW about the current restructuring of the National League.

It was no secret that this season was one of the toughest years in Australian soccer history.

Many clubs risked financial problems, top quality players had left their teams for overseas clubs, lastly, the failure to reach the World Cup all but summed one hard year for Australian soccer followers.

One of the many issues, which will be discussed by Soccer Australia during the off-season break, will be the amount of clubs entering the league in future seasons.

It was evident in the media that Nogarotto expressed his view that a 13-team competition will be the case in next seasons league, however, new plans will be drawn up in order of seeing new clubs take-part in future National League competitions.

"The Board of Soccer Australia will make the final decision as to how many clubs will take part in the National League for the next few seasons in a meeting possibly at the end of May. A few problems need to be sought out first such as S.A.'s dispute with IEC. However in my opinion it seems pointless culling anyone at this stage as we don't want to fall into the trap of making piecemeal changes as has happened in the past," said the National League Chairman.

Asked about the current National League crisis that has swept most Australian clubs, Remo added: "Not only do we have a financial crisis in Australia, but when you look at the situation world-wide, football on a whole is in recession."

Take Italian Serie A club Fiorentina for example, the club is going through some tough times and its just one of many examples of clubs facing huge economical problems from around the globe. It also does not help the soccer cause when huge media outlets are collapsing as most clubs use these places as forms of revenue. Its true that comparing Australia's problems with the rest of the world is not easy, however, its evident to see that even the richest of competitions have it tough," said Nogarotto.

At this stage, three clubs have been knocking on the National League door for possible inclusion to the competition, they are; The Chinese backed Melbourne Dragons, wealthy South Australian businessman Con Makrisi Adelaide Galaxy and finally the Brisbane Lions.

A 13-team competition has already been set for the new year but this might all change if current clubs fail to meet Soccer Australia's model of being in the National League. The only way sides like the Galaxy, Lions or Dragons could take-part in next seasons league is only if a current National League club withdraws for financial reasons.

"From what I've seen so far from these consortiums, more work needs to be done. In saying that, it is also up to us (Soccer Australia), to tell them what is required and what we want from them to gain access into the National League whether it is next season or the season after. The matter again is still on hold until the end of the NSL season," ended Remo.

Soccer Australia need to introduce a plan whereby a 12-team competition is run, meaning axing one club that simply just can't cut it for next season.

Having 13 teams is always a tough scenario as a club goes through a bye week by week ruining cohesion in the squad and the league itself.



(Top) Perth's Bobby Despotovski seen here celebrating a goal against the Olympic Sharks the last time they met. Come Grand Final day will Despotovski be celebrating again?
(Bottom) Glory's Jamie Hamwell (no.3) looks dejected in their only loss of the regular season to

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AUSSIIES ABROAD

BY BINESH MUDALIAR

An update this week on Australian-born players that have committed their international football careers to other countries.

Let's start with perhaps the two most talented players that Australia have "lost" recently, viz., ANTE SERIC and JOE SIMUNIC. Both defenders have been chosen for Croatia's World Cup scratch match against Hungary on 8 May at Pecs. Seric plays his football with Serie A club Verona while Simunic is contracted to Bundesliga outfit Hertha Berlin.



Ante Seric (left) and Joe Simunic will both be in action for Croatia this week.

Melbourne-born former Yugoslav international SASA ILIC has denied he is off to Fratton Park at the end of the season. Ilic, who can leave Charlton under the Bosman ruling, told Portsmouth Teamtalk, "I've heard nothing from Portsmouth despite the speculation.

"I know there are one or two clubs interested in me. My future lies elsewhere."

Former Central Coast Coasties youth player JAMIE MCMASTER, who tied his future to England by accepting to don the "Three Lions" in youth internationals, has denied Newcastle United the chance to win their first reserves title since 1948 by scoring the winner for Leeds in a second XI fixture last week. McMaster buried a shot past Adam

Collin from inside the box following a cross from classy winger Harpal Singh.

Aside from the quartet mentioned above, other Australian players who have decided to play international football elsewhere include CRAIG JOHNSTON, DAVID OLDFIELD & TONY DORIGO (England), BUDDY FARAH, MICHAEL REDA & HUSSEIN JOMAA (all Lebanon), PECE SIVESKI (Macedonia), MICHAEL PANAPOULOS (Greece), TIM CAHILL (Western Samoa) and the very best of them of all, CHRISTIAN



VIERI (Italy).

Australian captain PAUL OKON's permanent move from Middlesbrough to Watford is in doubt following the collapse of ITV Digital. The company was expected to pay 178.5 million pounds to the Football League clubs but this is in serious doubt following their imminent liquidation status. Okon spent three months on loan at Vicarage Road following a disastrous stint at 'Boro under the coaching of Steve McLaren.

1860 Munich have rejected Fenerbache's 700,000 pound bid for Socceroo hitman PAUL AGOSTINO. 1860's Director of Sport Dirk Duffner told Kicker, "A player of his (Paul's) ability will certainly not be

leaving for such a small of amount."

A fee in the region of 2.5 million pounds is a figure that is more agreeable to the Lions. Agostino commented on the whole affair by saying: "I know that scoring just five goals this season is not enough, but I am fed up with being fourth or fifth choice here.

"I have to get my share of match action and that's why I won't be around at 1860 next season."

Former NSWIS defender GARETH EDDS will be released by Nottingham Forest following his contract expiration. Edds made only one appearance (as a substitute) for Forest's first grade team this season.

SOCCER TRIVIA
In the 1990's, how many times did Manchester United win the English First Division/Premier League title?
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Socceroo troubleshooter JOSIP SKOKO, who captained Racing Genk to the Belgian League title this season, has finished third in the Belgian Player of the Season count. Skoko's teammate, Wesley Sonck was voted the best for season 2001/2002.

SASO PETROVSKI almost led Viborg to one of the upsets of the season last Wednesday night. Viborg were holding Danish league title favourites Brondby to a 1-1 draw when the former Wollongong Wolves star burst through Brondby's defence in the last minute of the game, but agonisingly shot just wide.

The Australian duo of SCOTT McDONALD and JAY LUCAS are proving to be a big hit at English Premier League side Southampton. McDonald, a current U20 Australian international and Lucas a former U17 Joey were apart of Southampton's first grade squad in their Charity Match against Bournemouth.

Both Australians came on and played the final 25 minutes of the match, and from all reports impressed many who attended the game. It's been no secret that the pair have been working well together for the club's

reserve team, both strikers have bagged a number of goals this season, and look set to be included in Southampton's pre-season tour to Sweden. McDonald and Lucas are the surviving members of the band of Aussies that were recruited by the Saints two years ago. ADRIAN CACERES, DARREN BROXTON and MATT ROSIER have all left St Marys.

Parramatta Power goalkeeper LES POGLIACOMI has won a two-year contract with Oldham Athletic after successful trials at Boundary Park. Pogliacomi will return for pre-season training in June.

West Aussie striker RICHARD GARCIA cannot wait until the start of the next English Premier League season. This season saw Garcia make his first grade debut for West Ham after graduating from the Hammers famed youth academy. Garcia told the official Hammers website: "Next season is a big one for me and a lot of the young lads. The gaffer is getting the young lads involved which is good."

"We have got a lot of good young players at the club and hopefully we can get first team football next season."



MILE STERJOVSKI's winner for Lille on the weekend ended Paris Saint Germain's hopes of playing in the Champions' League next season.

The Socceroo striker's goal is sure to impressed new Lille coach Claude Puel.

A BIG THANKS TO
SOCCER AUSTRALIA'S
MEDIA DEPARTMENT &
BRETT KLUCZNIK

Quote of the Week

Brett Emerton will miss the UEFA Cup final against Borussia Dortmund this week after the European disciplinary committee rejected Feyenoord's attempts to overturn Emerton's yellow card against Inter Milan for time-wasting at a corner kick.

Emerton said of the heartbreaking decision:

"There was an unbelievable misunderstanding between the referee and the linesman and I'm the one who suffers.

"To miss a great game in this way is really difficult to take.

"If I had kicked somebody, I would have deserved the booking and it would have been easier to accept the suspension."



Pic of the Week



Player of the Week

Socceroo stopper Craig Moore played an instrumental part in Glasgow Rangers' 3-2 win against Glasgow Celtic in the Scottish FA Cup Final.



SA REAP \$250,000 FROM SUCCESSFUL FINALS SERIES

By Daniel Kuziow

Struggling Soccer Australia are set to receive a cool \$250,000 from an unexpectedly suc-



cessful NSL finals series.
The Subiaco Oval

based Grand Final and the Preliminary Final between Newcastle United and the Olympic Sharks are promising crowds in excess of 65 000 and with tick-

et sales expected to bring in \$1.25 million, SA will claim the lazy quarter million dollars by taking 20 percent of expected revenue.

Although this

money will not save the head of Soccer Australia just yet, the money will go a long way in ensuring that there is money for the corporation to use service upcoming international matches and the players involved in them.

It was only last week that several of the best locally based players voiced their concern regarding SA's idea of not paying the Socceroos for competing in the upcoming Oceania Confederations Cup.

Yet, the strategic planning for the upcoming months by Soccer Australia will ensure that this money is put to good use in solving what is fast becoming a stand-off between an establishment content on not paying their workers and a group of players content on being paid to play.



Ian Knop: Soccer Australia Chairman delighted about the extra funds coming in from the successful Finals Series.

FRASER PARK JETS



John Sentas: Coach



Adam Snyder



Antonio Farria



Derek Poimer

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PAOK TO CROWN SOUTH SEASON

By Bert van Bedaf

An act in extremities, South Melbourne's remarkable run in search of a national title may have crashed two games shy of a grand final tilt, its fairytale season isn't yet finished.

The Lakesiders will host Greek top team PAOK Salonika at Bob Jane stadium on either May 19 or 26 to put a dollop of icing on a dazzling roller-coaster ride that skidded through the valley of death and almost flagged down the Grand Prix 12 weeks later.

Unfortunately, the fabulous dream faded in Sydney. The National Soccer League season came to a close for South Melbourne after losing 2-1 to the Olympic Sharks in the minor semi-final at Marconi Stadium and the Lakesiders swiftly focused on next season with the appointment of former player Steve Blair as general manager.

Blair takes over from Damien Phillips who resigned some time ago. A two-time national champion with South (1984, 1991), Blair

will take up his appointment on June 1 and is looking forward to the challenge.

"In my days as a player, South Melbourne set the benchmark for soccer in this country. I love this club and I believe my experience will benefit South Melbourne," an enthusiastic Blair



declared shortly after his appointment.

South's 1984 side included such luminaries as Ange Postecoglou, Alan Davidson, Oscar Crino, Carl Halford, Ken Murphy and Charlie Egan. Of those, Postecoglou is now national youth coach, Murphy coaches Essendon Royals in the State League and Davidson is a soccer commentator.

With 22 years of managerial experience in private enterprise behind him, Blair wants Albert Park to become the focal point of soccer in Melbourne.

"I want Bob Jane stadium to be the place where everybody comes to watch soccer," Blair said.

South coach Eddie Krncevic also quickly put the loss behind him to plan for next season.

"We played 13 finals this season. The game against Olympic

was our 14th.

Olympic was the better team on the day. Now we have to start planning for next year. We would obviously like to strengthen the team," Krncevic said.

Three months ago, South Melbourne languished at the bottom of the NSL, but a 12-match streak lifted the side into the top six to be one of four sides left standing. Although the loss was disappointing, South certainly proved its critics wrong by finishing fifth after the regular season.

Injuries struck last season's losing grand finalist like a flurry of Mike Tyson punches and it took the club the remainder of the season to haul itself from the bottom to within two goals of advancing to the next phase of the finals.

The South revival coincided with the return from injury of captain Paul Trimboli and the return (full stop) of Con Boutsianis.

Colourful, controversial, charismatic, Boutsianis proved the flame that set South alight when the season looked dim and grim indeed.

When Vaughan Coveny also returned from injury, the trio galvanised a battered side that had managed to maintain a lingering hope of grasping better times like a drought-stricken farmer praying

for rain.

Eventually, South became an amalgam of youthful exuberance, experienced campaigners and rugged individualism that carried them as close to the promised land as Moses before the parting of the sea.

That miracle never happened for the South brigade and like other ordinary mortals they tasted the salt of the unforgiving waters. Nevertheless, the season has not been completely without its rewards for the South Melbourne players.

It is a major tribute to them that Socceroos coach Frank Farina has indicated seven of them are being considered for the Oceania Nations Cup in July.

Among those earmarked for selection is evergreen defender Mehmet Durakovic, who at nearly 37 is enjoying a renaissance not even Michelangelo could have painted more magnificently.

Others in Farina's viewfinder are Trimboli, 33, Fausto De Amicis, Patrick Kisnorbo, Boutsianis, Steve Panopoulos and goal keeper Michael Petkovic, who has re-signed with South for four years.

Trimboli, who played his 400th NSL game in the losing semi-final, is set to sign for another two years.

"Getting to 400 games is very special and I definitely want to keep on playing at South Melbourne. If the club wants me to be part of the team,

I'd be more than happy to stay," Trimboli said.

Trimboli's status at the proud club is reverential and one exemplified by dedication. Although there have been fleeting thoughts of, or attempts at carving out an overseas career, Trimboli has remained and always will be a South Melbourne loyalist.

"I wanted to be a one-club person, someone who wanted to make his mark at one club," Trimboli said.

The midfield general began his NSL career with Sunshine George Cross at 18 and is the third highest capped player in the national league.

He has won three national titles with South. He captained the side that took part in the 2000 FIFA World Cup championship in Brazil and won two NSL Player of the Year Awards as well as an U21 Player of the Year award.

This year another South Melbourne youngster is vying for the U21 award.

The side's 17-year-old midfielder Massimo Murodca is among three nominees.

The others are Olympic Sharks' Jade North and Newcastle United's Joseph Schirripa.

If things had gone better for South earlier in the season, the finals run could have been less arduous and the run towards the pot of gold beckoning at the base of the illusive rainbow less Quixotic. But there's no such dimension as virtual reality. There's only dreaming and reality.

"To have come from last at the halfway mark was a wonderful achievement for us, but it is much easier to win a championship if you finish in the top two," Krncevic said.

South Melbourne finished minor premiers last season and lost 2-1 in the grand final to Wollongong. It lost by the same score against Olympic Sharks, but the club can still cast back on a season that extracted the best possible result from the opportunities and resources that were available.

Fans are looking forward towards watching the torch being kept alight and carried to greater fortunes next season.



ABSW UNCOVER SYDNEY UNITED'S NEW GENERAL MANAGER

By Binesh Mudaliar

In a move that can only be described as a 'breath of fresh air', the Sydney United Bravehearts have appointed a former player with one of the earlier models of the club, i.e., Sydney Croatia, as its new (caretaker) General Manager.

John Radman played in Sydney Croatia's defence in the early 1980s before moving to Canterbury Marrickville Olympic and playing the 1986 season in the National Soccer League. Following his stint at Olympic, Radman ventured south to Bestic Street, Rockdale, where he wore the famous St George jersey. Since hanging up his boots to concentrate on the 'after-life', Radman has been at the helm of several multinational companies and now sits in the big chair at the Edensor Park-based club.

First cab off the rank for Radman in terms of dealing with media issues and the common public perception was answering the growing rumours that Sydney United were considering applying for a spot in the NSW State League competition. Radman was certain in his response: "There is NO truth to that rumour whatsoever. Sydney United will DEFINITELY be in the National Soccer League next season and for many more seasons thereafter."

"The finances of all clubs in the National League could be better but here at Sydney United the financial situation doesn't warrant in any way, shape or form a dramatic pull-out from the National League to the NSW State League."

"Basically, there are no financial concerns for 2002/2003. It will be business as usual."

With that rumour hit well back over the bowler's head for six, the second delivery grinded Radman on the whispers that the Bravehearts were seriously contemplating a move to one of rugby league's heartland's, Penrith, in an attempt to widen their supporter base. Again Radman moved swiftly to set the record straight. "No is the simple answer. We will be staying at our current location in Edensor Park, especially given the fact that our stadium is in the midst of a capital improvement project."

"We have had relationship-building discussions with some of the soccer associations in the

greater Sydney area with a view to widening our supporter base and commencing some sort of feeder system, but there is nothing concrete at this stage."

"Sydney United may play some trial games or friendlies in other areas to widen the brand appeal but that's as far as the plans go."

It's often the case when attending matches at the Sydney United Sports Centre or nearby Marconi Stadium that at least two State League matches have been scheduled in the same area at the same time, namely, at Fairfield's Nineveh Field and Bonnyrigg's Serbian Centre. This is a concern for the Sydney United hierarchy. "We'd be silly if we said that the scheduling of four high level games in the same area at the same time wasn't a concern," said Radman.

"The ideal situation is if the State League was not scheduled at the same time as the NSL in a compact area but we have no control in setting the fixtures of the NSW Soccer Federation."

"It's all about broadening the appeal of the game and not competing against each other."

And finally to on-field matters and Radman confirmed that Branko Culina would be head coach of Sydney United next season. "Branko and the current coaching staff will all be here when 2002/2003 kicks-off. We want a competitive squad that will provide the club and its supporters with a realistic chance of finishing in the NSL's Top Six."

"For myself and the club there are several immediate issues that we would like to get on top of. Obviously, on-field matters are of great importance followed by getting to grips with the administrative running of the club and working cohesively with Soccer Australia."

So there you have it. Another sign that the sport in this country is starting to make the correct decisions by appointing people with a deep understanding of the game backed up by impressive credentials in the cutthroat world of business.

JOHN RADMAN'S STATISTICS:

DOB: 9/3/63
Former Clubs: Sydney Croatia, Canterbury Marrickville Olympic and St George
NSL games: 17 (in 1986 with Canterbury Marrickville)
NSL goals: 1



Parramatta Power Appoints Manfred Schaefer as Assistant Coach

By Mark Stavroulakis



Manfred Schaefer: Will spend the next 2 seasons at the Power as Assistant to Nick Theodorakopoulos.

With two years to prove the National League that they are contenders for a championship, Parramatta Power has appointed the ever-experienced Manfred Schaefer as assistant coach of the club.

After the mid-year appointment of Nick Theodorakopoulos as head-coach, the former Wolves coach chose Manfred, who Nick believed, was one of his main influences in him becoming a coach.

Nicknamed the "Iron Man" of the 1974 Australian National Team, the German born player played a huge

role in the team's success making that elusive first World Cup in Germany.

"I'm very happy to be back in soccer after a brief break from the game", said Manfred.

The former Socceroo has signed a 2-year deal at the club, which will see him start his tenure at the team's pre-season training.

The club will go through an overhaul of players with the tag being 'out with the old and in with the new'.

It is rumoured that the club is after a number of big name players, but with the side also winning the recent National Youth League final, the future is looking bright for the Parramatta based side.

Viduka commits to Leeds cause next season while Leeds plan tour down under

By Daniel Kuziow

Leeds United striker Mark Viduka confirmed his desire to stay at Elland Road next season in a speech during the club's awards night this week.

Viduka, had been linked with huge transfer offers from mainland Europe including Italian giants AS Roma, Spanish side Deportivo La Coruna and most recently La Liga's champions elect Valencia. In the latest bid, the title front runners were willing to fork out 30 million pounds for the big centre forward.

At the awards ceremony, Viduka won the award for Goal of the Season with his strike against Newcastle United being voted the team's best for the campaign.

The Aussie said, "That goal was up there with one of my best. It was a difficult game for us and it came at the right time, but it's just a shame we didn't win the game."

"I think I should have scored a few more

goals this season.

"I had a better campaign last time but hopefully next season will be better."

Viduka has scored 38 goals in 95 appearances since he moved from Celtic in July 2000 and much of Leeds' attacking grunt has focused around the sublime touch of the striker who has formed unenviable alliances with the club's other strikers, including Alan Smith, Robbie Keane and Robbie Fowler.

Still on this club, Leeds United are scheduled to play a one-off match in Melbourne in July, according to press reports.

Opposition for Leeds, which boasts Australian internationals, Mark Viduka and Harry Kewell, is yet to be confirmed but several international and local clubs are under consideration, the Sun-Herald newspaper reported.

Leeds are believed to have promised a full-strength squad, but doubts surround Kewell's involvement, whose previous experiences with private match promoters here have turned sour.



Mark Viduka: Leeds United star keen at staying at Elland Road.

PORT KEMBLA SALUTES ADRIAN ('Noddy') ALSTON

ADRIAN ALSTON, the former Australian World Cup striker, has easily been one of the most colourful personalities to have ever donned our national shirt.

A lethal striker possessing magnificent silky ball skills, within two very short years of having migrated from England in 1968 as an adventurous 20 year old marksman, the Preston-born 'Noddy' rapidly made his mark in Australian Soccer.

Alston first joined the South Coast United side in 1968.

Having very quickly scored a stack of goals for the NSW regional Club, it was no wonder that he soon

captured the attention of leading Sydney side, St George Budapest.

Despite Alston's incredible ball control, it was his massive aerial power that yielded him a flood of goals.

In all free kicks, corners or crosses, Alston was lethal in the air.

He would steam into the box and climb high to powerfully 'nod' into the target.

In 1969 Alston gained selection in the national team and held the key position of central striker for Australia right through to the 1974 World Cup Finals in West Germany.

It was the Aussie National Squad that labelled Alston 'Noddy'.

Special Feature

After returning to Australia from the World Cup, Alston reverted to South Coast United for one season before being sold to England's First Division outfit, Luton Town.

'Noddy' later was sold to Cardiff City before flying across to the USA to play for two seasons in the American national league with Florida side, the Tampa Bay Rowdies.

In the USA Alston played against Germany's living legend, the fabulous Franz Beckenbauer, the very same World icon Alston played against just two years prior in

the World Cup Finals in Hamburg.

However tragedy struck 'Noddy' in his second American season, tearing his cruciate ligament that forced him into retirement.

Longing for the precious sunshine of Australia, Alston



with his vivacious, English-born wife Doreen, plus their two children, 'little Adrian' and Debbie, elected to once more make Australia their home. So the Alstons returned to the South Coast of NSW.

And how many goals did Alston score for Australia?

"Hard to really say as I can't remember.

"All I ever wanted back in those years was to score as many goals as I could and never bothered to count them," 'Noddy' told ABSW.

Including all 'A' and 'B' Internationals, Alston represented Australia in 78 matches.

Since retiring, and desperately wanting to remain involved in the game, it was only natural that Alston would turn his attention to coaching.

In this area Alston craved to channel his vast experience gained on the international circuit to young players directly under his guidance.

And what a huge success this lanky former interna-



ADRIAN ALSTON-as he is today.

tional goal-ace has achieved as a coach.

The Port Kembla Soccer Club based on the South Coast of NSW, ventured forward and signed the former Australian World Cup striker as their Senior Head Coach.

That was ten years ago and he's STILL there.

Highly attack-orientated, Alston's incredible coaching

achievements with Port Kembla in this past decade, must surely rate as being close to the unbelievable.

During this period of time, the good-natured Alston has piloted Port Kembla to no less than 19 trophies, embracing four League Championships, five Grand Finals, two Charity Shields, two Brampton Cups plus a very valuable six Club Championships.

On Saturday 25th May, at the Fraternity Bowling and Recreation Club, at Fairy Meadow, and as a mark of respect, the Port Kembla Soccer Club is staging a very special dinner to salute their valuable senior conquering coach, Adrian Alston.

Today, Adrian Alston is employed as an Integration Officer where he assists many people that have an intellectual disability.

And what sport does 'Noddy' encourage them all to play?

You just wouldn't guess.



AUSTRALIA'S Legendary 1974 World Cup Squad. Adrian Alston is the fifth player from the left in the back row.

SOCCER AUSTRALIA AT LAST MOVES ON NSL FUTURE

By Daniel Kuziow

In response to the growing indignation from fans and clubs alike Soccer Australia chairman Ian Knop has confirmed the national body is considering having the NSL run by an independent commission.

While the board will not decide on the composition of next season's NSL until after the grand final, Knop did foresee an independent body running the domestic competition inside 12 months.

"We've got to cut the umbilical cord sometime," he told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"If it was working as it is, it might be different. But everyone agrees the league, as it is, is in desperate need of an overhaul.

"And as part of the reform process it's time we gave the clubs the opportunity to run their own affairs under the governorship of Soccer Australia and in the framework of the English model."

With plans still very much on the

drawing board, this decision will at least give beleaguered clubs something to look forward to. Under the governing of Soccer Australia last season, the 13 NSL clubs shared in



Ian Knop: Soccer Australia Chairman is considering an independent commission running the National League.

\$11 million losses, with many clubs in this off-season already alone forced into cost-cutting, simply to keep the club afloat.

The idea of ruling soccer in this country under a British type mould is at least a forward step on behalf of SA, who since the completion of the regular season have become rather stale in announcing reforms for next season.

Under the proposed plans, one establishment will concentrate on on-field issues and another organisation will control off-field dramas.

There is less chance of the game becoming embroiled in the financial problems that have plagued Soccer Australia throughout the 2001/2002 National League season, giving fans and officials alike the chance to enjoy the game of soccer for what's it really worth.



ADRIAN ('Noddy') ALSTON (No. 10): Challenging Iran's goalkeeper in the air during Australia's extremely tough World Cup Qualifier in 1973 at the Sydney Sport Ground, with tenacious midfielder John Warren also challenging. Australia ultimately defeated Iran 3-0 with goals scored by Alston, Peter Wilson and Atti Abonyi.

National Soccer League

PRELIMINARY FINAL



Newcastle United



Olympic Sharks

SHARKS GUNNING FOR GLORY IN PERTH

By Con Tagaroulas

On a sunny afternoon in Newcastle an enthusiastic crowd of 17,708 were on hand to witness United's last throw of the dice.

The Olympic Sharks, who shared the ground record for our code with the now defunct entity of the same name of 18367, were the fitting visitors. Their fans have traditionally been the best travellers to Newcastle and a new record was expected. The only ingredient missing was some marketing savvy from the N.S.L. hierarchy that precluded Newcastle from breaking the record. The decision to inflate children's ticket prices clearly had an effect on crowd numbers.

This much-awaited duel between the second and third best squads in the NSL had pitted two rookie coaches against each other. The media hype through the week demonstrated that neither adversary was out of their depth in the art of psychological warfare. Olympic had provided the league with some of the most attractive football of the season with their finishing at times creating headaches for Gary Phillips. The addition of Ante Milicic to his squad mid-season had provided a welcome relief for this ailment.

The United squad were missing the dynamic running of the Grand Final winning Robbie Middleby who has provided and scored some important goals in this years campaign. The inclusion of Joseph Schirripa to the United bench would have pleased Ian Crook, as the bench appeared to have a little more N.S.L. experience for this encounter.

The match commenced with both sides being careful in not committing

too many players forward.

In the 4th minute some untidy defence saw the ball fall to

Tom Pondeljak 12 meters out to Beltrame's right. The midfielder failed to hit the target.

A minute later ex Newcastle player and Sharks captain Troy Halpin, used his magical skills to cut a path through the heart of the United midfield forcing the first save from Daniel Beltrame who parried the ball to his left.

In the 10th minute the Olympic Sharks won a corner, which was duly taken by Tom Pondeljak. He found the head of Jade North on the far post. The Olympic players downward header was stopped on the line by Travis Dodd, who attempted with a second stab at the ball to clear the area. He only managed to find Ante Milicic two meters out. The result was a 1-0 lead to the Sharks.

The next few chances fell to the home side, as they seemed to pick up a gear.

Clint Bolton blocked an Andrew Roberts shot on 15 after lead up work



Fijian international Esala Masi battles with Olympic star Troy Halpin.

minute later a Matthew Bingley cross was cleared from the Sharks area.

In the final minute of the half a Tom Pondeljak back heel found goal scorer

Ante Milicic on the edge of the United box. Milicic turned and shot, striking the side netting.

From the next movement up the park, some excellent passing from Peter Tsekenis and Milan Blagojevic led to Alex Moreira receiving the ball on the edge of the six-yard

box. He beat a desperate Olympic defence, but created too great an angle for an effective shot. The Brazilian's shot was saved by the legs Clint Bolton.

In the last breath of the half, Wayne Shroj played a pass into the path of Lindsay Wilson. The Socceroos strike dipped over the United crossbar.

At the resumption, United again grabbed the initiative. In the 47th minute, Alex Moreira scampered into the Sharks area, drew the defence and passed the ball to Esala Masi. The Fijian International hit his shot over the Olympic cross bar from 10 meters.

Olympic countered a minute later. The resulting scramble in the United area, with Hiroyuki Ishida the protagonist, led to a strike for the Sharks. Daniel Beltrame saved at Ishida's feet resulting in the later being injured. Another ex Newcastle lad entered the fray for the Sharks in Greg Owens.

In the 56th minute Andrew Durante was cautioned for time wasting, as the Sharks seemed to be content to run the clock down. The young defender will

now miss the Grand-Final in Perth, a real blow for the 19-year-old.

In the 65th minute Alex Moreira again unlocked the Sharks defence from a long ball by Travis Dodd. The Brazilian ran the ball to the edge of the Olympic six-yard box and cut the ball back for Peter Tsekenis who failed to beat the only Sharks player in the way of a goal.

Three minutes later Alex Moreira was released by a cleaver Joel Griffiths flick pass. He again ran into the Sharks area but was dispossessed by an eager defence.

In the 78th minute Esala Masi headed down for Joel Griffiths in a wide position. The cross-found Peter Tsekenis who headed down to Alex Moreira. The Brazilian appeared to be impeded Andrew Durante allowing the ball to run to Clint Bolton.

In the 83rd minute Andrew Roberts, who had kept Socceroo Lindsay Wilson well contained for most of the game was replaced by Joseph Schirripa.

A Pondeljak, Milicic counter attack in the 87th minute nearly led to a second strike by the later. Pondeljak broke from just inside his own half at pace with only Matthew Bingley between him and the United goal. On drawing the United captain he released Milicic who's shot beat Daniel Beltrame but was cleared off the line by Bingley.

The last attack of the game Joel Griffiths crossed to the near post for Scott Baillie. The cross was taken off his head by a Clint Bolton hand for a corner.

The final result flattered the visitors however they scrambled well considering all three substitutions were due to player injuries. The loss of the experience of Troy Halpin and Ante Juric must have worried coach Gary Phillips. Clint Bolton was in fine form as was Ante Milicic providing problems in numerous

counter attacks. Injuries and suspensions for the Sharks will play a vital role at Subiaco as Olympic will face a tough task in containing a possibly full-strength Glory side.

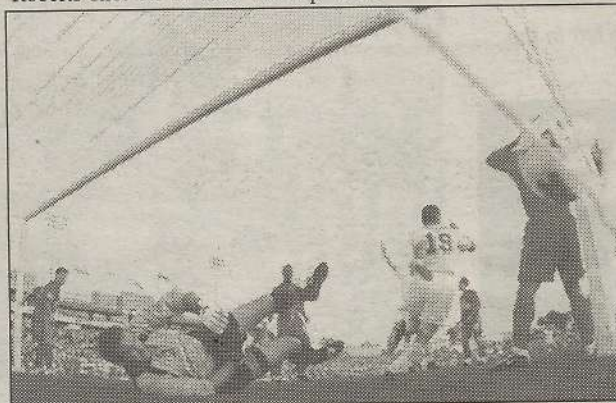
For Newcastle, captain Matthew Bingley was the pick of the bunch with



Newcastle's 'iron man', Andy Roberts shown tackling Jeromy Harris.

timely interceptions at crucial times ensuring the attacking prowess the Sharks have displayed all season was dulled. Last weeks man of the match against Perth, Travis Dodd, turned in another solid performance, as did Peter Tsekenis.

With the swathe of injuries the Olympic Sharks have suffered only die-hards would believe they could bring the trophy back from Perth.



United custodian Daniel Beltrame watches in despair as Milicic scores the vital goal that set up the win for the Sharks.

from Peter

Tsekenis and Esala Masi.

A minute later a Milan Blagojevic corner was flicked on by Peter Tsekenis to Esala Masi on the far post. The Fijian international failed to hit the target from 8 meters.

A 17th minute set piece by Milan Blagojevic found Michael Prentice who header high to Clint Bolton's right resulting in a United corner.

In the 23rd minute a rampaging Travis Dodd was cut down midfield by Andrew Packer. The ball fell to Esala Masi, who played it on to Dodd. Referee Simon Micallef failed to play the advantage and even stopped United from taking a quick set piece.

In the 28th minute Joel Griffiths nodded down a poor Olympic clearance into the path of an advancing Matthew Bingley. The 25-meter effort from the Socceroo went low and wide of the target.

In the 33rd minute Scott Baillie tried his luck from 35 meters clearing Clint Bolton cross bar by about a meter. A



Speedy Sharks star Lindsay Wilson holds off United midfielder Milan Blagojevic at Sunday's match at Energy Australia Stadium.

PRELIMINARY FINAL STATS

OLYMPIC SHARKS1
(A Milicic 9)

NEWCASTLE UNITED0

VENUE: Energy Australia Stadium.

CROWD: 17,708

REFEREE: S. Micallef

CAUTIONS: M. Prentice (NU) 62, T. Dodd (NU) 72, A. Packer (OS) 23, A. Durante (OS) 57, C. Bolton (OS) 61.

TEAMS:

OLYMPIC SHARKS: Bolton, Kohler, Wilson, Pondeljak, Halpin (Shroj 41), North, Harris, Milicic, Packer, Durante, Juric (Ishida 18) (Owens 51).

NEWCASTLE UNITED: Beltrame, Prentice (McBreen 69), Roberts (Schirripa 84), Bingley, Dodd, Griffiths, Tsekenis, Baillie, Blagojevic, Masi, Moreira.

THEODORAKOPOULOS TO BANK ON ANASTASIAIDIS AS POGLIACOMI SIGNS FOR OLDHAM

By Mark Stavroulakis

New Parramatta Power head-coach Nick Theodorakopoulos has stated once again his desire to sign Wollongong Wolves custodian Dean Anastasiadis for next season's squad.

"I'm waiting for Dean to get better so I can hopefully sign him for next year," said Theodorakopoulos.

The Power coach will indeed need a keeper for his new squad as last seasons number one, Leslie Pogliacomi has had successful trials in England and has signed a 2-year-deal with English 2nd Division side Oldham.



Leslie Pogliacomi: The Power keeper has signed a 2-year-deal with English 2nd Division side Oldham.

Coming off contract in June, the 26-year-old will go to the 'Latics' on a free transfer and will hopefully fulfil his dream of making it big in Europe.

Two seasons ago, Pogliacomi was part of the championship winning Wolves side that ironically was coached by Nick Theodorakopoulos.

Nick was adamant about Leslie as a keeper and said to ABSW; "I wish Leslie all the best in his future endeavours overseas. I was happy to have given him the start he needed in the National League at the Wolves but Leslie knew he was not to be in my starting plans for the new season," said the Power coach.

Currently sitting under the sticks at Parramatta is young promising keeper Liam Reddy. The 21-year old will sit into the Power's squad as possibly the second choice keeper. "I have a lot of faith in young Liam and he will be apart of the squad next season,

however we do need another keeper. I've been noted by saying that currently in the National League, four keepers seem to always stand out; The Petkovic brothers, Clint Bolton and Dean Anastasiadis. It would mean a great deal for any side to secure the services of one of these four men, but hopefully if all goes well with Dean's injury, we could see him in the squad for the new year," said Theodorakopoulos.

This past season, it was no secret that Anastasiadis was the Wolves main man, who helped the side avoid the wooden spoon.

The 32-year-old stated to ABSW that all is well with his injury and that he should be back in a few weeks. "It's going well at the moment, I've taken off the plaster and I'm able to move my arm in a normal fashion once again. Four weeks from now I will start training getting myself fit and ready for the new season," said the former Carlton keeper.

Speaking about the Wolves woeful year, Dean said; "On a personal note I was pretty pleased with my performance this season. It was evident from day one that we would find it hard this year as a number of quality players had left the side. Also injuries plagued a number of our top players so we really had our backs against the wall," said Anastasiadis.

Dean's rumoured move to the Power next season in his mind could happen, but he is open to any other offers as well. "At this stage I'm open to all offers, but one thing's for sure, the Wolves have treated me well since my

start at the South Coast club.

You always take the best opportunity that comes your way in this country and that's what I intend to do. The Power interest is great as I would like to be apart of a strong squad, however I will weigh up all my options and take things from there," said the Wolves Player of the Year.

Only a week until the National League officially comes to an end, coach Theodorakopoulos has been busy scouting for new players at the club for the new year.

"Names of all the players signed will be known at the end of the National League season. People must know that I will sign well-known quality players, who will take the Power to the next level. Let's just say that with the players who I will hopefully sign, we should be a team worthy of running for a championship next year," ended Theodorakopoulos.



Power coach Nick Theodorakopoulos discussing his views for the up and coming season with ABSW Editor Mark Stavroulakis.



Dean Anastasiadis: The Wolves custodian could be off to the Power next season.

TOTO ON THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD TO EUROPE

By Daniel Kuziow

Melbourne Knights' star Toto da Costa is planning a move away from Somers Street to join the ranks of the elite European footballer.

Da Costa told The Age that he was looking at the Netherlands as his destination and would travel to Europe

next week in an attempt to secure a two-year contract.

"I am getting some trials set up there and if it's OK and I get a contract, I will stay there," he said.

Two seasons, the 28-year-old Angolan was brought to Melbourne for former Knights chief Vlado Vanis and has been a revelation since in his partnership with Joel Porter.

Da Costa has previously enjoyed the trials and tribulations of professional football following stints at Portuguese giant Sporting Lisbon and a Dutch second division club and is itching to once again breathe the rarefied footballing air of Europe.

Da Costa added, "If I can't find something there, I will come back to Australia. I will talk to the Melbourne Knights, but I will do what is best for my family and me. I have a lot of choices to make."

The Angolan star bagged 11 goals for the Knights this season, and was always a threat for the red and white army in attack.



Toto Da Costa: The Melbourne Knights star could be off to Europe, permanently.

HALPIN AND TRIMBOLI ON THE VERGE OF RECLAIMING SOCCEROOS JERSEY

Olympic Sharks playmaker Troy Halpin looks like being rewarded for his recent good form of late with a recall to the Socceroos squad for the Oceania Confederations Cup qualifiers in July.

Halpin made his international debut under Terry Venables in February 1998 when he came on as a substitute against Chile in Melbourne.

He has been capped just six times and scored one goal but he has not been part of the national set-up for four years. He is now almost certain to be named in Frank Farina's squad for the trip to Auckland.

Farina confirmed to The Australian, "There can be no doubt that, on his day, Troy is one of the best players in the country."

"I thought he was brilliant on Sunday



Troy Halpin: The Olympic Sharks midfielder could be rewarded with a Socceroo call-up.

(in the 2-1 win over South Melbourne at Marconi Stadium). He played the sort of football I know he can produce when he is on song."

Halpin has been voted by his peers as one of the top five players in the league this season despite an ongoing osteitis pubis problem that has hampered his training regime.

In fact his Sharks coach Gary Phillips has nicknamed him "The Amphibian" because of the amount of time he spends recovering in the pool.

Halpin is lucky to train once a week although Phillips is just glad that his creative spark is available at all.

Phillips told The Daily Telegraph, "He's so courageous, he's an inspiration to the rest of the players."

"He's only been playing at 50 per cent - imagine what he'd be like if he was fit."

"He's been tremendous and should be one of the first players Frank Farina selects for the Oceania Nations Cup."

Farina is well aware of Halpin's groin problem but there is time for the 28-year-old to undergo surgery and recover in time to take his rightful place in the Aussie set-up.

"I am aware of the situation with Troy, but hopefully it can be resolved," Farina said.

"There are still 10 weeks before the qualifiers."

Halpin, who will go under the knife once Olympic's NSL campaign is over, is

the first to admit that he has been struggling physically but with a championship as stake he is not yet ready to give up.

"I just want to keep going for these last two games, assuming we make the grand final."



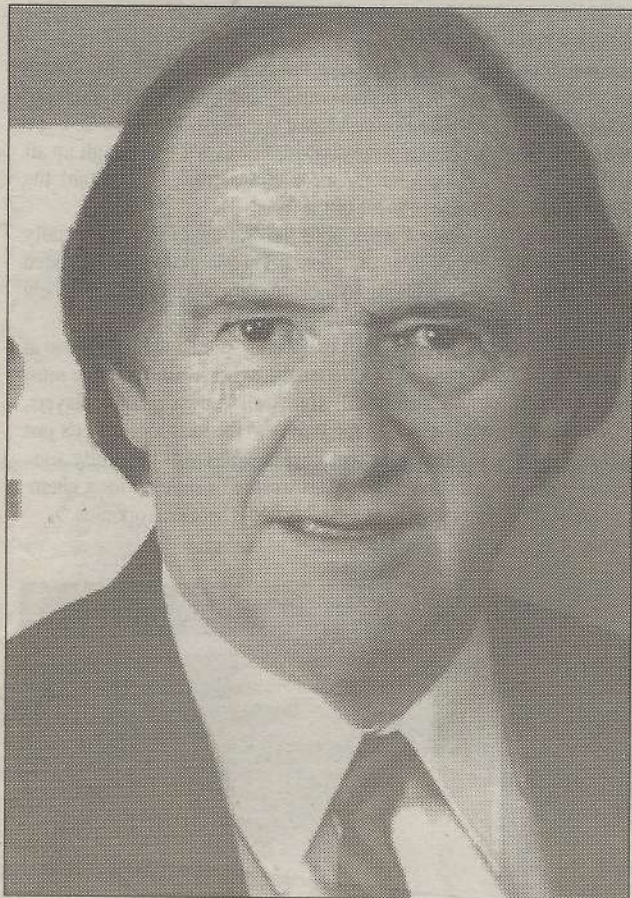
Paul Trimboli: South Melbourne Captain could also be an inclusion for Farina's side.

Also, South Melbourne veteran Paul Trimboli could also get a possible call-up for the Socceroos in the up and coming Nations Cup in New Zealand.

The 33-year-old had a great season with the blues in midfield, as he was one of the many experienced players that helped his sides cause in getting into the top six finals.

It would be a fitting tribute to a man that has played well over 400 National League matches to be rewarded with a green and gold jersey.

One on One with Radio Personality Colin Turner



Colin Turner: The voice of Soccer in Australia.

By Ben Moring

To many people, Colin Turner represents a man who loves football and loves to share it with the people that matter, the fans.

For ten years, Turner brought the mad world of English Football into the homes of his loyal listeners on his 2KY program, which ran the commentary of a Premier League fixture in the UK through the BBC's 5-live.

Not to mention the banter which preceded the call of the match, football fanatics who were given free reign to profess their love for the Hull City's, Nottingham Forest's, as well as the Arsenal's and Manchester United's of this world.

The switchboard of 36 phone lines were full an hour-and-a-half before the program aired, such was the success.

What many people can testify to, Colin is a man of the people and helped out anyone he could, including the less fortunate amongst us. Turner helped out his 'friends', who just happened to be every single person who loved football and contributed to making his program one of the most adored in this country.

Life brings many new challenges and Turner has moved to a new home on the radio, Radio 2, 1611 AM.

ABSW's Ben Moring caught up with Colin Turner.

Q When did your love affair

with football, in particular Arsenal FC, start?

"I guess it started when I was born. In Ireland there are really two teams you could support.

"You either loved or hated Manchester United, or loved or hated Arsenal. I chose Arsenal."

Q When did you start your career in broadcasting?

"My broadcasting career started in Boston, USA. I was 15 years of age and I started in high school on campus. I was a DJ playing records.

"The love of sport was always there and I continued broadcasting in New York. I commented on the Gaelic football and hurling and then soccer followed after that.

"In 1976 I was transferred to London and I did sports wraps each day for Independent Radio News, commenting on show jumping and some football.

"In those days the BBC wouldn't let other broadcasters call football, so we were only allowed three 30 second reports on football."

Q When did you arrive in Australia?

"I came to Australia in 1989 after spending time in Spain, South Africa, Italy, France and Germany.

"My time in Spain was magic. I had an amazing time there with Terry Venables. He was a great coach and friend."

Q How did the hugely successful 2KY English Football show start?

"The General Manager at 2KY, Nola Barbera, had heard my broadcasting from London and approached me to a commentary here in Australia.

"I did a Sports Watch program in London, which is now my program here in Australia.

"However, it was very difficult to do as you have live commentary from around 14 matches on the Saturday afternoon (early Sunday morning in Australia).

"So we signed an agreement with the BBC to bring their commentary with Allan Green and Mike Ingham, whom I worked with before and were magic, great to work with and we had some banter.

"We ran from 1991 to 2001 but had to finish when 2KY was sold to Sky Radio. The station didn't get into contact with the BBC to get the rights until it was too late and by that time 2UE had stepped in."

Q What programs are you running on 1611 AM?

"I run the Sports Watch program every day from 5:30 to

6pm. We focus on all of sport and we interview anyone and everyone in sport.

"I also go to the back rooms of sports administration, because people like to hear what is happening behind the scenes in sport.

"We started in October last year and have got a great response from our listeners.

"We are a drive-time program and we have a lot of listeners from the west of Sydney, they listen on their long trips home."

Q What is the main objective of the Sports Watch program?

"The main objective is to increase the awareness of sports in Australia. Soon Radio 2 (1611 AM) will have the same format running right around the country."

Q What have you taken from the world of football?

"Definitely the camaraderie and the friendships made. I don't think there is a city in the world that I could go to and not meet up with a friend I have made through football."

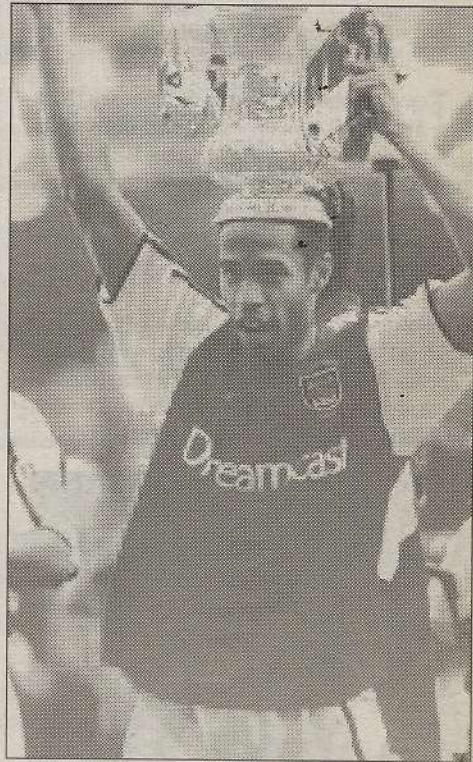
"And Didier Deschamps, John Tigana now at Fulham and Michel Platini all from France."

Q Most memorable moments on air?

"There was one crazy night in London when I had to call a greyhound race in the Surrey Cup Final. There were 6 greyhounds and I owned the favourite.

"I had to pretend that someone else owned the dog. The dog was beaten by a nose.

"I also remember being a ground announcer at Wembley for an Arsenal V West Ham cup final and I was standing behind the goals.



Thierry Henry: Colin believes the Gunners striker will be one of the main players in the up and coming World Cup.

I think we need an independent body with independent people making decisions, like in Rugby League.

"There are people associated with clubs having too much of a say in the running of the game, like Manly Warringah did in Rugby League."

Q Which teams or players should we look out for at World Cup 2002?

"There are some great sides in Argentina, France and Italy. You can never discount the Brazilians but the news coming from Brazil isn't good.

"It seems big Louie (coach) can't get the team to gel and there are certain clicks in the side. Pele hasn't even listed Brazil as a genuine chance, which says a lot.

"I think England can make the quarter finals with the draw they've got. There are always one or two dark horses that can make the quarters or semis (Croatia 1998).

"Patrick Viera and Thierry Henry from Arsenal may stand out, Zinedine Zidane, even though he has gone off the boil of late.

"Roy Keane of Ireland, although many pundits are tipping Robbie Keane may have the ideal stage from which to perform.

"Michael Owen if he can beat players, but he may well be very well marked."

Q Finally, how will your beloved Ireland feature?

"I think they will do very well. McCarthy is a great coach and they may well make quarterfinals if they save themselves from injury.



Terry Venables: The former Socceroo coach is one of Turner's famous friends.

Q Who are some of the influential football figures that you have met and have made an impact?

"Marco Van Basten would have to be number 1. He was incredibly talented before he was forced out of the game.

"Kevin Keegan, Kenny Dalglish, the 'Irish Mafia' at Arsenal in people like Frank Stapleton, David O'Leary (Leeds manager), Pat Rice (Arsene Wenger's assistant), Sammy Nelson and Pat Jennings.

"Others include Jack Charlton when he was manager of Ireland, he was a very good coach, Dennis Irwin.

"Trevor Brooking jumped up and scored a goal with his head (for West Ham) and I just stood there frozen. Trevor had never scored a goal with his head and never would again.

"I have never forgiven him for that and have slagged him of about it ever since, but it was all in good fun."

Q What do you think of the standard of football in Australia?

"We will never reach the equivalent of Division One in England because the talent isn't staying here.

"The structure is not in place in football here, some of the people at the top have had self interests.



David O'Leary: The Leeds United manager has played an influential role in the code of football according to Turner.

Pedge Bojic:

PARRAMATTA POWER'S MEAN MACHINE

By Stuart Jones

A player who picked up a medal last week for Parramatta Power thanks to their win in the Northern Youth League Grand Final was rising star Pedge Bojic. This talented young defender made his NSL debut this last season and is certainly a player that is being talked up in the highest of soccer circles.

Born in 1984 in Sydney he first played for the Wollongong Wolves before moving onto the NSW Institute of Sport then making his move to Parramatta Power.

He has represented both NSW and Australia and played at the FIFA U17 World Cup in 2001. Les Scheinflug, former technical director at Soccer Australia, certainly thinks highly of him. "He is a talented defender, very good in the air and can play off his right or left just as well. He is a strong and powerful defender and would be good in Europe, especially England. At the moment he just need time at the top level to develop his game."

His coach this season at Parramatta, Stuart Munro, is also full of praise; "He has shown in youth league this year that he is more than capable of making the step up to first grade. He plays a strong game and is strong willed, forceful and quick. He is a terrific athlete and is good in the air. He has the individual characteristics to make a good modern day defender."

FACT FILE

Predrag (Pedge) Bojic

Born: April 1984 (in Sydney)

Current Club: Parramatta Power

Previous Clubs: Wollongong Wolves

NSW Institute of Sport

Honours/Awards: NSW U15 - National Title Champions 1999

NSW U16 - National Titles 2000 (Captain)

Australia U17 World Cup 2000, 2001 -

10 appearances, 1 goal

FIFA U17 World Cup 2001 - Trinidad and

Tobago Northern National Youth League

Champions 2002 (Parramatta Power)

Other Interests: Music, Beach, Catching up with Friends.



Pedge grew up in Wollongong and made a lot of friends playing soccer. "As I grew and continued to make representative teams I loved the game more and more and slowly my commitment to the game increased. I have been lucky to have good coaches along the way, for example Ange Postecoglou taught me a lot during the World Cup campaign. There are a number of well qualified coaches in Australia these days, and we as players are lucky. The other big influence in my career has been my family, they have encouraged and supported me all the way through my career."

Bojic has certainly made a meteoric rise through the youth ranks.

"The NSW Institute was a great time for me and to captain NSW was an honour. It was great to make the U17 World Cup side and there were a lot of quality players in Trinidad and Tobago. It was a thrill to play in a World Cup against players of that calibre and is the highlight of my career so far."

He is certainly very competitive; "Anytime I am injured I feel are low points to my career because I just love to play. I aim to do my best every game I play in. Parramatta has been good to me because they have displayed professionalism, carried a good team spirit and also give me strong career development opportunities."

He is an attacking defender who seizes opportunities to push forward and score goals, and with talents like that he is also a versatile player. His future is not quite sealed yet but is soon set to be. The player's manager.

Chris Tanner, is talking to Parramatta Power's new boss Nick Theodorakopoulos at the moment, although other clubs are also showing an interest. "Pedge is comfortable at Power, and we feel that he will get a lot from working with Nick. Their development of youth players is a priority and we hope to see Pedge benefit from these strategies" said Tanner.

Examples of this program are Brett Holman, Adam Kwasnik and Patrick Carrera. Like so many of these youngsters his goals are fairly self evident, "I want to continue to play at the highest levels I can reach, here and overseas, and to play for Australia at senior level."

SECOND NATIONAL COMPETITION ON THE CARDS?

By Graham Cooke

A proposal for a "second tier" soccer competition involving initially NSW, Victoria and the ACT and later on possibly South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania, has received a cautious response in Canberra soccer circles.

With the Canberra Cosmos debacle still fresh in their minds, most officials adopted a wait-and-see approach. However, Soccer Canberra president Steve Doszpot is supportive.

At first sight this appears to be a turnaround as Doszpot was critical of earlier proposals to form a NSL second division,

however he said this was a different approach.

"It will be a separate competition, independently funded and administered and will not function as a second division," he said.

However SC chief executive Alan Lee said the competition could "evolve" into a second division, with promotion and relegation, given time. "The aim is not to impose anything, just to see if it can be a success," he said.

The ACT's strongest clubs had different views on the proposal. Canberra Deakin welcomed it as a worthwhile initiative, but Belconnen Blue Devils president Tony Paterson said he was conscious of his club's commitment to the NSW Premier League.



Steve Doszpot: Soccer Canberra President wants another National competition.

STATEMENT FROM SOCCER AUSTRALIA



Australia's governing body Soccer Australia last week released a detailed statement regarding the issues of the National League finals series.

Last week, the Olympic Sharks wanted to change the venue from Marconi Stadium to Toyota Park, which caused a stir between the clubs and S.A, this report explains what was done prior to the series whereby clubs agreed on the rules and regulations given out by Soccer Australia:

Following recent comments in the media from representatives of Olympic Sharks regarding the staging of the NSL minor semi-final at Marconi Stadium, Soccer Australia wishes to make the following facts known:

* During the lead up to the Top Six Series clubs were requested to provide a preferred match day for their home semi-final. The NSL also made provisional bookings with stadiums to facilitate match scheduling.

* Channel 7 also sought the availability of matches to be scheduled at 3pm on a Saturday or Sunday for

inclusion in 7's new Sportswatch program.

Although this request could not be met for the first six home and away matches, the NSL agreed to schedule the final three matches to meet 7's requests, with the minor semi-final scheduled for Sunday, 28 April with a 3pm kick-off.

* By agreeing to the requests of Soccer Australia's media partner, national TV coverage of these critical matches would be maximised for the benefit of all soccer followers.

* Olympic Sharks, together with all other prospective semi-finalists, were contacted on 6 March and asked for their preferred match day for their semi-final.

* Olympic Sharks responded on 8 March, advising Soccer Australia that their preferred match day was Sunday with a 6pm kick-off.

* In the week leading up to the reverse matches between 4-v-5 and 3-v-6, Soccer Australia addressed the possible scenarios for the minor semi-final.

Depending upon the results, the match could have been staged in Melbourne, Brisbane or Sydney.

* Had the match been played in Brisbane, it would have been scheduled at

Ballymore with a 3pm kick-off, as requested by Channel 7.

* Had the match been played in Melbourne, it would have been staged at Colonial on Monday night at 8pm, the stadium not being available over the weekend.

This move was discussed with Channel 7 because there would not be any footage for Sportswatch. 7, though, were obviously happy for the match to be staged at Colonial because of their ownership in the complex.

* For the match to be staged in Sydney, Soccer Australia faced a dilemma.

Toyota Park was unavailable because of an NRL fixture and under the terms of Olympic Sharks agreement with Cronulla Sharks the ground could not be used on the day before an NRL match.

* Having considered the potential crowd, Marconi Stadium and Parramatta Stadium were nominated as two venues for consideration.

Marconi was favoured because of the anticipated crowd, hiring costs and the fact that an NRL match had been scheduled at Parramatta Stadium for the previous day.

* These options were discussed with Olympic Sharks, who agreed with the preferred option of Marconi

Stadium.

* After the match against Melbourne Knights, and with only three days notice, Sharks officials sought to change the date and venue of the minor semi-final to a Friday night match at Toyota Park.

* On Monday 22 April, and in the absence of the Soccer Australia Chairman, the Deputy Chairman of Soccer Australia, the Acting Chief Executive and the NSL General Manager discussed the request.

The Acting Chief Executive, having weighed up the merits of the request and the logistical problems, decided that there were insufficient reasons of a compelling nature to change the day and venue of the fixture.

* On Tuesday 23 April, a request was received from Olympic Sharks to have the match played at North Sydney Oval instead of Marconi Stadium.

The Sharks were asked if they would be prepared to meet the increased costs of hiring that venue. The Sharks were not prepared to meet these increased costs, although they were prepared to pay half.

* After further discussions, management confirmed its original decision to stage the match at Marconi Stadium.

Greg Bates
Acting Chief Executive

★ ★ WAYNE'S WONDER WORLD ★ ★

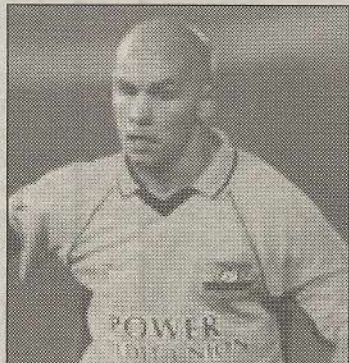


By Stuart Jones

Parramatta Power midfielder

Wayne O'Sullivan was named Player's Player of the year at the club's annual awards presentation last week.

O'Sullivan's outstanding efforts in mid-field this season for the Power were acknowledged by his fellow team mates with a strong vote placing him first in the count, ahead of Ahmad Elrich and David Barrett.



Wayne O'Sullivan: Parramatta Power star picked up the club's Player of the Year award.

The Irish import was humble in the acceptance of the award; "It is not something I expected but I am honoured to accept this award." He becomes the first import to win the prize. He also picked up the Internet player of the year award, an opportunity for Power's fans to vote for whom they think was the best player for Parramatta this season.

This initiative was strongly supported by the supporters of the club and it was the affable Irishman who confirmed he was not just a favourite amongst his teammates but the fans as well.

Youngster Ahmad Elrich picked up the media's player of the year award. Another youngster, Adam Kwasnik, was successful on the night - also picking up two awards. He was named youth player of the year for the northern league champions and also picked up the award for the highest goal scorer with 23 goals, 20 in the youth league and three at senior level.

It was a successful night for the Power and despite it being an end of season review it also focused on the future. Surprisingly neither former coach David Mitchell, nor senior player Alex Tobin spoke on the evening.

This may be a reflection that the club is already focused on the future. As a side note Tobin was told the previous weekend that Power would not be resigning him for the upcoming season, so it would have



Alex Tobin: The former Socceroo defender's services will not be needed by the Power next season.

been a good opportunity for both he and Mitchell to say their final farewells but that was not to be.

Also one regular first grader was missed when presenting the players with a momentum of their season. This was the second year in a row the player has been missed at the awards do.

Despite these minor hiccups Parramatta showed they were truly focused on the future and new coach Nick Theodorakopoulos would be excited by what is in store. Hopefully for the sake of football in the western suburbs of Sydney, Parramatta can be successful in the upcoming two seasons.

Letters to the Editor

LIFT YOUR GAME S.A.!

Dear Sir,

I am appalled at Soccer Australia's inventiveness in calling for their Socceroo stars to play for nothing in the upcoming Oceania Confederations Cup tournament. They have shown to me how directionless they are when it comes to looking after the game and all their hundreds of thousands of players.

There has not been an example in the entire era of professional sport where the controlling national body has asked its players to play for nothing and asked it overseas based players to pay their own way to New Zealand. The only time national representatives of a sport have played for little or nothing were the Wallabies when rugby was a pure amateur sport. Now in their era of professionalism they are looked after the way any athlete should be with the respect and gratitude of the ARU.

Soccer Australia is pathetic, sitting on their high horses while those they should be marshalling, suffer at the hands of their ineptitude and lack of planning.

It was only last week that Mr Bates came out and said that the wearing of the green and gold is unquestioned and something that every athlete aspires to. Mr Bates has absolutely no knowledge of what it means to be an Australian representative on any paddock and certainly I would argue if in his own profession he was not going to get paid for his services he would be the first to voice his

concerns.

I believe we as a soccer nation have become the laughing stock of the world. Our on field achievements against some pretty outstanding teams are surely now looked at with even greater regard from those around the world when they discover that our own governing body does not have the finances to pay them for their achievements. While we have moved up a step from third world football into second and first world football, our administration



is still sadly the sick puppy of the third world that has absolutely of rising to be a great institution. As long as there are incompetent people in charge, soccer in this country will go nowhere.

The most recent example of players not getting paid, is the continuation in the long list of such problems. After the World Cup qualifiers, the Socceroos were not paid until some three months later and only after intense lobbying from the PFA.

SA's lack of money stemmed from their reliance that the Socceroos would qualify for the World Cup. Any sort of crisis plan

was not even planned by SA who had already taken the \$12 million cheque and banked it.

While Mr Knop has come into SA and spoken of some radical new plans to rescue the ailing game, I can say most confidently that these are nothing but a farce attempting to draw attention away from the fatal problem. After all aren't PR practitioners trained in the art of spin doctoring? I read only the other day that one institution under the care of Mr Knop PR agency had sighted bankruptcy. Does Mr Knop bring such baggage to all organisations under his care?

Soccer in this country is slowly dying.

While we have tremendous numbers and talents playing the game the fatal body blow is being delivered by those chosen to protect and nurture it. If SA cannot look after its very best athletes how will they be expected to look after the champions of tomorrow.

Ryan Watson,
Footscray, VIC.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is no secret that SA have had their fair share of problems this season. This adds more salt to the already wounded governing body of Australian soccer. Not paying the players their fair share is a tough thing to do, through this incident expect the more profile players to refuse playing for their country, hopefully SA can lift their game up sooner rather than later.

WELL DONE PHILLIPS

Dear Sir,

For those of Gary Phillips' doubters who in recent weeks labelled criticism at his style and success of his team must now surely eat humble pie.

Their victory over South Melbourne at Marconi Stadium was a great achievement against what was undoubtedly the in form team of the competition. In a run that lasted some 14 games with only one loss prior to last weekend's result, many people regarded South Melbourne as a team capable of reaching the grand final.

Much of the media attention focused on this, while Olympic went about their semi final campaign with ruthless efficiency. Their 6-2 victory over the Melbourne Knights a week earlier was proof that this team was capable of pulling off some good results. Their most recent victory over South Melbourne proved that they are capable of putting together a string of

good results.

The upcoming game against Newcastle United is set to be an absolute beauty and with Olympic at the top of the game, should give this areal shake.

Steven Tsokas
Villawood, NSW.



EDITOR'S NOTE: In his first season as a National League coach, Garry can hold his head up high for a job well done. He has guided his young side through to the final stages of the National League, a great achievement. The only aspect for next season is whether Gary and his services will be

needed? Reason being, English Premier League giants Leeds United are believed to be taking over the club. If this happens, it will be hard to see Gary continue his good services at the club. We will just have to wait and see what happens next at the club.

CAN'T WAIT FOR THE BIG ONE!

Dear Sir,

What can we say, we Perth Glory supporters are overwhelmed at the support we've been getting from the ABSW.

Last year, we finished top and did not receive half the support as we did this season. The side has done brilliantly this year, all going well, we should be lifting the trophy up at Subiaco Oval.

Perth is a fine example of where Australian soccer should be at, the people of Perth

love their soccer, hopefully you can continue to support the best club in the National League.

Malcolm Timmins
Inglewood, WA.



EDITOR'S NOTE: The Glory have been the in form side this season, we will just have to wait and see whether the Glory squad can go all the way, all the best up at WA!

ZELIC FOR SOCCEROO CALL-UP? I THINK NOT

Dear Sir,

I must agree with the article written about Ned Zelic where at the very end of the piece the writer questions whether he is becoming more nationalistic simply because he is faltering at domestic level.

In recent week Zelic has had unhappy spells at Germany and most recently spent about 2 weeks at a club in Japan. He is struggling to get first-team action at any of the clubs he is located, so what better way to resurrect a dwindling career by declaring your desire to play for your national team. In the past three years, the Socceroos have done rather well without the services of Zelic and with Frank Farina already preparing for the 2006 World Cup, I would think that he did not have the services of Zelic in mind in these initial preparations.

If Farina does decide to take Zelic on board, then what? Will Ned expect to be rushed into the starting 11 straight away? Mark Bosnich failed to make the recent Socceroos squad because he did not feature in regular first team action. For this reason alone, Zelic would not make an immediate impact in the Socceroos squad. Then if this becomes a regular occurrence, will Zelic perform another dummy spit and walk out once again on Farina and his teammates.

As I said before I think the Socceroos have performed outstandingly in the past three years without his services and I don't think he is the kind of person

Australian soccer needs as a national representative.

Alex Tobin was the epitome of the perfect soccer ambassador both on and off the field in the way that he conducted himself and we have examples of this in the current side in Craig Moore and Tony Vidmar. Zelic's actions of three years ago showed to the soccer public that he was above the call of the national team and his recent decision to make himself available for the Socceroos shows that he is still above this team. Why should he be considered when he himself decides when the time is right for his re-selection?



Ned Zelic

Frank Farina is right to be cautious about Zelic's declaration. I have no doubt that he will make the right choice when the time comes to leave out Zelic for the good of the team.

Paul Sorenti
Balmain, NSW.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Ned Zelic affair is a touchy subject, however, he did not wish to be a part of the Socceroos before, why should Frank Farina feel sympathetic for his services now. Zelic is a quality player and no doubt was brilliant when he played with Australia, but when he turned his back on the team, that was the last straw. It will be interesting to see what the outcome will be on the Zelic affair nonetheless.

BOSNICH A BAD 'AUSSIE'

Dear Sir,

It's been interesting to read about Mark Bosnich not wanting to play for Australia anymore, because it interferes with his domestic football career.

There would be no chance he would have said that if he was born in England or another major soccer country in Europe.

He is just another ungrateful mercenary footballer who would never have played international football if it wasn't for Australia.

Although he maybe right in saying that Australia will never be a major force in international Soccer he is wrong in saying that the World Cup finals is for the best 32 teams in the world.

If that was the case there would only be 2 or 3 countries outside and central America), that would make up the 32 finalists, instead of the 12 or 13 that do now.

Unfortunately Basil Scarsella, Ian Knop and others have put to high a value on the importance of Oceania being a fully fledged Confederation on it's own right.

They know as well as anybody else that Oceania was created to

make up the numbers for these other Mickey Mouse, money making international tournaments that Sepp Blatter and others have created.



Mark Bosnich

We can't keep throwing up the excuse that because 8 or 10 of the other finalists from Asia or Africa are not in the top 32 best Soccer Nations in the world, that we should have direct entry from Oceania.

That's because it's not our national number one sport, like it

is in those other poorer countries. If it was ours and the Kiwis national sport and we maintained a top 20 or 30 ranking constantly by both countries, plus a couple of the Island Pacific countries had a constant top 50 to 100 ranking, that would then be a different story. In our present position getting direct entry won't help or prove a thing, as it did not help in 1974.

Therefore I suggest apart from concentrating more on the domestic scene, that at the international level, we lower our expectations and importance at playing against Asian countries a lot more, those playing in the lower divisions and minor leagues of Europe.

I am sure my advice will continue to go unheeded, continuing to chase the impressive dream by pursuing big name players who make themselves available 3 or 4 times every four year period, not to mention our player continuing to be a production line for European and other overseas clubs at the domestic level.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang Qld.

OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

VILLANI AGAIN CITY HERO

Former Adelaide City champion midfielder Charley Villani is eager to grapple with the challenge of succeeding Zoran Matic as the new Force coach.

Villani was officially appointed to the position last Wednesday evening at Ram Park, where club president Bob D'Ottavi made the announcement to the players.

Villani, the match winning hero of Adelaide City's first NSL championship triumph in 1986, previously coached SA clubs Para Hills Knights from 1994-96 and Birkalla (now Adelaide Galaxy) from 1997-2000.

He guided Birkalla to its last Premier League championship success in 1998, before being succeeded by Zoran Maricic.

Villani, 40, cut his coaching teeth as assistant to long serving NSL mentor, Matic in the 1992-93 season.

A skilful, classy midfielder, Villani was twice acclaimed SA Premier League Coach of The Year when guiding Galaxy in 1997 and 1998.

"It's a big challenge, but I'm excited about being appointed to the position," Villani told ABSW.

"There is a lot of hard work ahead of me and the players," said Villani, who aims to recruit at least three players, including a quality striker and a couple of midfielders.

"We will be losing Mario Karlovic (see following article) and we don't know if goalkeeper Adrian Cagalj will sign for Burnley. If he does, we will be in the market for another keeper."

The uncertainty increases with Iain Fyfe and Scott Tunbridge pencilled in to train with AC Milan in the next few weeks.

Villani, meritoriously has pledged to create team harmony and self-belief and to treat all players with due respect.

He also says he will encourage strong communication between players and coaching staff.

"We expect to name an assistant coach and a fitness coordinator within a week or so," Villani added.

Meanwhile, another ex-City star, Joe Mullen was approached last week to take

the Force coaching reins, but rejected the offer because he did not want to move his wife and two young sons, Daniel and Michael, from Melbourne.

Mullen, who was assistant coach to Matic, before going to Victoria, also was not keen to seek an interstate transfer from his employer.

Socceroo midfielder Aurelio Vidmar was in contention for the senior coaching post, but prefers to continue as a player and was reluctant to combine the roles of player and coach.

City president Bob D'Ottavi had hoped to make the coaching appointment last month, but filled the breach by giving former coach Edmund Kreft the job of Technical Director.

A former Polish professional player, Kreft, was the first man to coach Adelaide City at NSL level when the Philips League was launched in 1977.

City's impressive NSL list of coaches is, Les Scheinflug, Rale Rasic, Bob D'Ottavi, John Perin, Bobby Ferguson, Zoran Matic and John Nyskohus.

Villani becomes the fourth former Adelaide City player to accept the coaching role, following in the boot studs of Matic, Perin and John Nyskohus.

GALAXY BID LOST IN SPACE

The NSL decision to retain its 13-team format until the 2003-04 season has slammed the entrance door on the adventure seeking consortiums bold enough to consider joining.

However, the door is not locked, because there could be vacancies should any of the current 13 be unlucky enough to fall over.

From this southern end, it seems Con



Con Makris: Adelaide Galaxy owner is upset about the suggested 13-team National League competition for next season.

Makris has lingering doubts about the chances of his Adelaide Galaxy being given the nod to be part of the NSL action.

While still expressing an interest, even the flamboyant Makris has tempered his original optimistic mood to one of caution.

The original plan to recruit around eight Socceroos to his team has now been placed on the backburner until at least 2003-04.

Should Makris be allowed to fill the void of a fallen club, he has indicated he would simply sign five or six players of NSL experience to bolster his existing Premier League squad.

"We would first like to see their plans for next season, but we are ready to come in if the conditions are right," said Makris, as he confirmed his commitment to fielding a team in the NSL.

MARIO HAS IT MADE

Unlike the majority of young Australian footballers itching to carve out an over-

seas career, Mario Karlovic will take off for overseas in July assured of a contract.

The Adelaide City Force midfielder trialed last year with Italian Serie B club Cittadella, resulting in the clubs agreeing to a transfer deal.

However, 17-year old Karlovic cannot legally sign for Cittadella until he turns 18, so will remain with City until he is able to



Iain Fyfe: Former U17 Joey is going to trial with Italian giants AC Milan.

Scott Tunbridge: The Force striker will be joining Fyfe in Italy for trials.

begin his overseas adventure.

City agreed to release Karlovic for a seemingly paltry \$70,000, but has included a flow-on clause which will net the Adelaide club 20 per cent of future transfers.

Karlovic, younger brother of Force defender, Ivan, is on the cusp of recovery from a foot fracture, will play for City's Premier League team until his departure.

CUP CLASHES

There will be no quarter asked, nor given when the West End Federation Cup quarterfinals are played later this month and early next month.

Adelaide Galaxy and Olympic FC, who are quickly replacing the passionate rivalry that used to be exclusive to the old, Juventus-Hellas confrontations, have been drawn to meet head-on in the first of the quarters.

Cup holder Playford Patriots will confront Campbelltown Red Devils on the same action-packed Hindmarsh Stadium program, when two of Australia's most experienced



The 17-year-old will sign a professional contract with Serie B side Cittadella at the end of July

coaches Alby Kidd (Playford) and Jan Kierno clash clipboards.

When the dust settles on the first quarter-final night, two Premier League clubs will be eliminated from the senior SA trophy tournament, while the second evening of action will determine the cup fortunes of State League survivors Enfield Falcons and Croydon Kings.

WEST END CUP DRAW

QUARTER-FINALS

HINDMARSH STADIUM
WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

Olympic FC v Galaxy (6pm)
Playford Patriots v Campbelltown (8pm)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

Raiders v Enfield Falcons (6pm)
Adelaide City v Croydon Kings (8pm)

UNDER 23 CUP

Saturday, May 18 (Kick-Off Noon)
Adelaide City v Croydon Kings (Rams Park)
White City v Galaxy (Thebarton Oval)
Playford Patriots v Modbury Jets (Ramsay Park)
Cumberland Foxes v Pirates (Croatian Sports Centre)

UNDER 19 CUP

SATURDAY, MAY 18 (Kick-Off 9.30am)
Olympic FC v Salisbury Berries (Thebarton Oval)
Playford Patriots v Campbelltown (Ramsay Park)
Raiders v Pirates (Croatian Sports Centre)
Panthers v Croydon Kings (Rams Park)

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 9

FRIDAY, MAY 10

Galaxy v Campbelltown

SATURDAY, MAY 11

Adelaide City v Raiders
Blue Eagles v White City
Metro Stars v Modbury Jets
Pirates v Olympic FC
Para Hills Knights v Playford Patriots

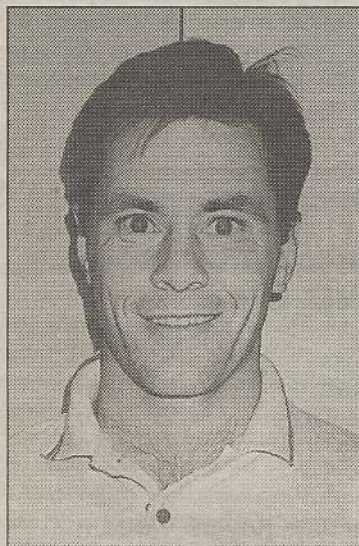
STATE LEAGUE

SATURDAY, MAY 11

Panthers v Noarlunga Bulldogs
Salisbury Berries v Northern Demons
Port Pirie City v Croydon Kings
Seaford Surfers v Cobras
Enfield Falcons v Cumberland Foxes
Hills Hawks v Western Strikers

ABSW's SA correspondent Allan Crisp, Soccer Promoter Angelo Picca, Channel 10 Presenter, Robbie Popplestone, West Beach coach Peter Millar and SBS anchorman, Kyle Patterson can be heard on the 1197 RPH Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-9am.

Former Australian international and Adelaide City coach John Perin, SA captain and Blue Eagles striker Michael Brooks and The Advertiser soccer writer Meno Toutsidis join Crisp for the 1197 RPH "SOS" Soccer On Sunday program from 8.30am-9.30am when the latest NSL, overseas and local scores are aired along with fast breaking news, views and interviews.



Joe Mullen: Former Adelaide City star was approached to take the coaching role but rejected it due to family reasons.



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Premier League Review By Glenn Davis

QUEENSLAND PREMIER LEAGUE WRAP-UP

By Glenn Davis

Relegation favourites The Gap's struggle to stay in the Brisbane premier league has reached crisis stage after a 6-nil defeat by Brisbane City at Spencer Park on Saturday night.

But if coach Ashley Hempstead's determination and desire is a gauge to the club's hopes of staying up, relegation is not an option.

Brisbane City were on the receiving end of a similar hiding by Queensland Lions last week but the scoreline against The Gap flattered them after both sides were locked nil-all at half time.

"It's been the story of our season all

year," Hempstead said.

"We've been competing well and our players are as good as our opponents but they're not as seasoned."

The game's turning point came shortly after Brisbane City took a 1-nil lead with the first of a double from Barry Wilkinson, who tapped in from close range after a goalkeeping error in the 48th minute.

The Gap midfielder Nathan Norling cost his side any chance of upsetting Brisbane City when he was sent off for dissent.

"The send off is what killed us," Hempstead said.

"Up until then we were in the game."

City coach Frank Pimblett agreed his side's performance was anything but flattering and refused to get carried away with the result.

"We dominated the game but they got bodies behind the ball well and we couldn't break them down until after the send-off," Pimblett said.

"I'm not getting carried away with this result as victories like these can often hide a lot of faults."

Hempstead believes injuries have cost his side dearly since the club was promoted to the premier league for the first time in its history this year.

"When we came into this league we had to buy a good defender and we bought Scott Elliott but unfortunately he broke a toe a few weeks ago and won't be back for another month," he said.

"Cameron Pearse also is out for another month with an achilles heel problem and now we'll lose Norling who'll be suspended and Alan Clay did

a groin against Brisbane City and will be out for a few weeks.

"It's vital for the club that we stay in the premier league as The Gap has got a great junior nursery."

Hempstead believed the next three weeks could decide the club's premier league fate.

"We've got to hang in there and the next three games is vital," he said.

"We've got Toowoomba at home, Rochdale away and Mt. Gravatt at home and all those sides are just above us.

"We've been playing better than our position on the table suggests."

The Gap's precarious position has prompted Hempstead to approach the Brisbane Strikers regarding an eligible loan player but he's yet to hear back from the national league club.

Brisbane City capitalized on having an extra man following Norling's dismissal and took a 2-nil lead when Damien Waugh drove home from 20 metres.

Striker John San Martin volleyed home the first of his double off a Wilkinson cross to make it 3-nil before Wilkinson struck a piledriver for his double from a free kick to increase City's lead by four.

With any hope of Gap fightback well and truly gone San Martin picked up his second for the game with City's fifth goal while striker Glen Kolpak ended a goal-scoring drought with the game's final goal.

Mt. Gravatt coach Jarrod Austin was bitterly disappointed with his side's 1-nil away loss to Wynnum at Carmichael

Park also on Saturday night.

Mt. Gravatt registered its first season win against Rochdale last week and Austin believed the Hawks deserved a better fate against the baysiders.

Wynnum's Brett Walsh broke the deadlock midway through the second half against the run of play to keep the Wolves in third place on the table with its fifth win of the season.

"We dominated possession and it's very disappointing we didn't come away with something from the game," Austin said.

"They only got out of their half on the odd occasion in the second half but they took their chances and we didn't.

"We should have scored the first goal but missed and they broke away and scored the winner."

The loss keeps Mt. Gravatt just two points clear from second bottom side Toowoomba who went down 1-nil at home to Queensland Lions and Rochdale who were thumped 4-1 by the Gold Coast.

Lions were kept scoreless to halftime before striker Greg Di Losa broke the deadlock midway through the second half finishing off a cross from Darren Sime.

Coach Miron Bleiberg was happy with the three points, which kept Lions at the top of the table in a physical game.

"It wasn't easy and we never expected it to be at Toowoomba," Bleiberg said.

"We were never really in much danger but credit to Toowoomba who were very organised in defence.

"Toowoomba are a better side than their position on the table suggests and I don't think they will be relegation candidates."

Rochdale, the one time high flyers in the premier league stayed in the relegation zone after a disappointing display against the Gold Coast.

A double from Matt Bennett and



Queensland Lion's coach Miron Bleiberg guided his side to an easy win over Toowoomba that kept them top of the table.

goals from Adem Poric and Cameron Watson gave the Gold Coast a comfortable win over Rochdale who scored through Cameron Hunt before half time.

Taringa Rovers picked up a valuable 2-1 win against Easts at Heath Park on Sunday to keep its finals hope alive.

Taringa, who have been devastated by injuries this season, came from behind after a 20th minute goal from Shaun Coffey put the home side ahead.

A solo effort ten minutes later from Craig Slaughter put Taringa back on level terms at the interval before Luke Morley set up Queensland striker Darryl Hathaway with the winner midway through the second half.

Taringa coach John Ogden believed the win would prove a timely confidence booster to his injury hit side.

"Easts had a few chances to score as did well but on balance we played better and deserved to win," Ogden said.

"We needed to win to ease some of the pressure and hopefully things will turn around for us now."



Brisbane City's Damien Waugh (no.17) was on the scoresheet as City trounced The Gap 6-0.

PREMIER LEAGUE Round 7

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Queensland Lions	7	7	0	0	20	2	21
Brisbane Lions	7	5	1	1	17	9	16
Wynnum	7	5	2	0	11	8	15
Gold Coast City	7	4	1	2	19	8	14
North Star	7	4	2	1	13	9	13
IPSW Knights	7	2	2	3	16	12	9
Eastern Suburbs	7	2	3	2	10	12	8
Taringa Rovers	7	2	4	1	7	11	7
Mt Gravatt	7	1	4	2	6	18	5
T'wmba Raiders	7	0	4	3	7	13	3
Rochdale Rovers	7	0	4	3	9	17	3
The Gap	7	0	5	2	4	20	2

ROUND 7 RESULTS

Brisbane City	6	The Gap	0
Taringa Rovers	2	Eastern Suburbs	1
North Star	4	IPSW Knights	1
Gold Coast City	4	Rochdale Rovers	1
Queensland Lions	1	T'wmba Raiders	0
Wynnum	1	Mt Gravatt	0

FIRST DIVISION Round 9

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Souths Utd	9	7	1	1	33	8	22
Pine Rivers Utd	9	7	1	1	18	6	22
Mitchelton	9	6	1	2	26	11	20
Bundaberg Waves	9	6	2	1	19	12	19
Uni of Qld	9	3	2	4	23	14	18
Capalaba	9	3	2	4	22	17	18
Inala City	9	3	3	3	18	14	12
Newmarket	9	4	5	0	13	14	12
Rocklea Utd	9	4	5	0	17	20	12
Redlands Utd	9	3	3	3	11	19	12
Albany Creek	9	3	4	2	11	22	12
Grange Thistle	9	1	7	1	6	27	4
Slacks Creek	9	0	7	2	6	19	2
Brisbane Olympic Uni	9	0	7	2	2	22	2

ROUND 9 RESULTS

Albany Creek	3	Inala City	1
Capalaba	3	Bundaberg Waves	2
Newmarket	2	Slacks Creek	1
Uni of Qld	4	Redlands Utd	0
Grange Thistle	2	Brisbane Olympic Uni	0
Mitchelton	2	Souths Utd	0
Pine Rivers Utd	2	Rocklea Utd	1

WEEKEND FIRST GRADE FIXTURES

◆ ROUND 8 ◆

Saturday 11th May

Gold Coast City v Mt Gravatt	5.00pm
Taringa Rovers v Brisbane City	7.00pm
The Gap v T'wmba Raiders	7.00pm

Sunday 12th May

Queensland Lions v Rochdale Rovers	4.00pm
IPSW Knights v Wynnum	3.00pm
North Star v Eastern Suburbs	3.00pm

P NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE E

www.nswpremierleague.com



Parramatta Eagles 1

(M Reveley 74m)

Blacktown City Demons . . . 0

Mark Reveley is more noted for his defensive abilities rather than his goalscoring prowess.

But on Sunday evening at Marconi Stadium he bathed himself in glory when he scored the Championship winner for the Parramatta Eagles in their one nil defeat of Blacktown City.

In the overall context of the match, the goal couldn't have been simpler. Released by an excellent through-ball from Glenn Sprod, Anthony Mittiga was able to get on the outside of his man along the left-hand touchline. He sent the cross into the backpost where Reveley had timed his run to push his header past a diving John Crawley and into the net.

While the goal may have seemed like a simple training exercise, the match itself was not. It was no place for the faint hearted, as both sides were tough and uncompromising with defence the order of the day. Blacktown started the brighter of the two sides and had a number of early chances to take the lead.

David Reid was throwing himself about on the Demons' forward line and with Kain Rastall and Peter Sermanni creating some space it seemed just a question of when Blacktown would

score, rather than if. But with Jason Holmes pulling off three spectacular saves in the first twenty minutes the steely resolve of the Eagles shone through and they held firm.

The second half was a little more even. The Eagles game plan to sit back and attack on the break seemed to work better with Glenn Sprod and Anthony Mittiga able to find a few more holes in

the centre of the park. Danial Cummins also came into the match after a quiet first forty-five minutes and all of a sudden the reigning premiers had a sniff. With their army of supporters urging them on, Parramatta were able to find the net and shut up shop in the final fifteen minutes to keep the margin in their favour.

While Parramatta did win the game a lot can be said for the endeavours of Blacktown City. They did all but score and if it wasn't for some feverish goal-keeping from Holmes and some out-

Tam Finlayson (Parramatta Eagles) in his last game as Eagles coach

"Our game plan was to sit back for the first twenty minutes as we knew Blacktown would come out and pressure us early and then to push forward from there.

The game went exactly that way and with Jason Holmes doing a sensational job in goals we were well in the game.

Mark Reveleys goal was absolutely outstanding. He is very much a quiet achiever for our side. He has scored goals like this on a number of occasions and he has a great knack of being able to sniff out these chances.

Full credit to Blacktown, they played well and had us on the back foot a few times and I must say they played the game in a terrific spirit."



Jason Holmes (Parramatta Eagles captain) and Man of the Match

"The plan was sit back in the first half and soak up some pressure. I thought we did that well and with our attack we were always going to be in the hunt.

Mark Reveleys goal was terrific. He is just such a solid performer every week for us and he deserved to score the winner.

Blacktown tried hard and you can never write them off. They kept coming at us but we knew if we could score first and get them to chase the game we'd be a chance.

And that is just how the game panned out."



Parramatta Eagles 1 (Reveley 74') Blacktown City 0
at Marconi Stadium

PARRAMATTA EAGLES: Jason Holmes, Geoff Dwyer (Mauricio Islas 77'), Malcolm Meilak, Mark Reveley, Mirko Jurilj, Anthony Mittiga, Jimmy Bakis, Glenn Sprod, Paul O'Grady, Ben Delicata, Danial Cummins (Geoff Howarth 85').

Coach: Tam Finlayson

BLACKTOWN CITY: John Crawley, Dane Hokin, Peter Sermanni (Luciano Berbis 85'), Ben Willard, Paul Dee (Zlatko Donev 57'), Kain Rastall, Naoki Imaya, Jimmy Nikas, Steven Riches (Damon Langan 77'), David Reid, Patrick Gatt.

Coach: Brian Brown.

Cautions: Sprod (PE) 70' Hokin (BC) 82'

Referee: Nick Asargiotis

Assistant Referees: Terry Goodhew and Andrew Kay

Fourth Official: Simon Proydacz

COACHES COMMENTS

Brian Brown (Blacktown City)

"We just didn't have the edge. We had a couple of really good chances in the first half and if we had have taken even one it's a different ball game.

It's disappointing to lose but that's football, if you don't take your chances you can't expect to win. In the later stages of the second half we tried to chase the game, by introducing Damon Langan. 'Langers' is the sort of player who can lay on a great pass for the forwards but sadly we just couldn't put it together. Kain Rastall for us was by far and away the best player on the park. He worked himself into the ground and tried hard to make things happen.

Congratulations to Parramatta, they proved they were the best side all year and deserved the win."



standing defending from Paul O'Grady, Geoff Dwyer and co, the result could have been all over by halftime.

But football is a game of chances and while Blacktown may have looked the more likely they were unable to make that possession count and will rue a number of costly near misses.

The Cafe La Scala Player of the NSW Premier League Grand Final is:



Jason Holmes
Parramatta Eagles

Cafe La Scala is located at Shop 32, Piazza Level,
Italian Forum, 23 Norton St, Leichhardt - Phone: (02) 9572 8577



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NSW Premier League



SEASON IN REVIEW

By Ray Sandell

Third last season, the Eagles proved to be the most improved team of the Premier League by taking out the Premiership and going on to win the double by beating Blacktown City 1-0 in the Grand Final.

A close second round defeat to Bonnyrigg was enough to set Coach Tam Finlayson's boys in the right mood, they waited for the White Eagles to falter and then took over the



competition lead that they never looked like surrendering.

Jason Holmes proved to be one of the safest 'keepers in the League and with the experienced Mark Reveley controlling the defence and Glenn Sprod the midfield, it was all set up for strikers Jim Bakis and Daniel Kukucka to torment the opposition defences. Bakis ended up top scorer with 16 goals with Daniel Cummins and Anthony Mondello each scoring 9.

Promoted to Premier league following their Super League success in 2001, the Lions found the rise to the top competition a little more difficult with a seventh position finish.

Once again Coach Ljube Jancev was given the job of trying to mould his squad into a trophy winning side but found the going hard.

"Erratic", would be a good description of the Lion's overall form. Beating a top team one week and losing to a lower team the next.



Boasting the largest first grade squad in the competition did nothing for the Club's performances and to be truthful it was a very disappointing result from a team with so much talent, and together with the poor results of the Under 19 team it appears a lot of hard work is required to return to the glory days of the mid 90s.

Top scorers were Colin Luff 16 goals and Goce Trposki with 9.

Midway through the season the White Eagles looked like winning the lot!

Nobody could touch them, but the wheels fell off for a few games and they started to drop away.

Coach Greg Woodhouse, in his rookie year, must have been looking for places to hide, but like all good teams Bonnyrigg fought back with the strength and ability that had seen them make the Grand Final four times



in the last five years.

The good run ended, however, with a 5-1 thrashing by Blacktown in the Preliminary Final.

Bobby Dragas towered over the opposition attacks both in stature and ability and Jimmy Aschner became the League's leading goalscorer, winning the Golden Boot with 21 goals and Vuko Tomasevic scored 9.

"Gone", following a mid season slump that saw them go seven matches without a win and drop well out of the Championship race, the Demons made a remarkable recovery to finish in third place on the table and make the Grand Final for the fifth time in a row, only to be narrowly defeated by Parramatta 1-0.

Coach Brian Brown never gave up on his team and saw his charges make all the pundits end up with red faces as they did the impossible. John Crawley, as usual, was "as safe as



houses' in goal with Naoki Imaya and Zlatko Donev always inspiring up front.

Following a very slow start, David Reid proved his worth and his performance against Bonnyrigg in the Preliminary Final was proof of his undoubted ability. The mid season signing of Dane Hokin added additional strength and mobility to the defence.

Jim Nikas was leading goalscorer with 10 goals and David Reid scored 8.

A strong squad, strengthened even more by the signing of experienced Derek Poirer, who proved to be their most consistent player, should have done much better than their final position of fourth.

The fact that Belconnen beat them in the Elimination semi final also showed once again that consistency is not a strong element at Lambert Park.

Coach Les De Cellis would have been a disappointed man at the end of the season and would have been wishing his first grade team had followed the example of the Under 19 team. The



Tigers "young guns" once again proved to be the shining light and once again took all the honours at the once proud club. In striker Andrew Falas they have one of the most talented and creative young players in the competition, and he should be a first team regular during the next season.

Without a trophy since the mid 1970s, the Tigers must do better to please their dwindling band of supporters. Ever reliable Steve Karavatakis was top scorer with 12 goals with Allan Picken and Derek Poirer each scoring 7.

The second season in Premier League saw the Blue Devils improve from seventh position in 2000/1 to fifth position and earn a place in the semi finals.

Following a 1-0 win over Leichhardt in the elimination semi final they were narrowly beaten 2-0 by Blacktown in the minor semi.

Coach Lino Fiorese said at the beginning of the season his aim was for his team



to make the semis, and he was true to his word. Strengthened by a number of former Canberra Cosmos players, Belconnen have shown that soccer is not dead in Canberra and they should be a real force in seasons to come.

Once again Tony Giannasca starred in goal with Daniel Macor narrowly missing out on the "Golden Boot" by scoring 17 goals and Michael Katz scored 6.

The Bulls were more than disappointed when they were not included in the inaugural Premier League competition and justified that disappointment with a sixth position, just missing out on a semi final place on goal difference, after finishing equal on points with Belconnen.

Coach Craig Sharpley, in his first year of coaching in Premier League, assembled a team of tried and trusted players and after a slow start they began to prove a thorn in the side of most other teams. A couple of disappointing results towards the end of the season cost them the prized



semi final spot but overall he would have been happy with his team's efforts.

He would have been even more pleased with the Under 19 side that reached the preliminary Final only to go down 1-0 to Premiers Central Coast. Incidentally Fairfield was the only team not to lose to the Coasties during the season and showed that the Bulls have many talented youngsters for Sharpley to call on in the future.

Mark Hoenselaars was the League's second highest goalscorer with 19 goals and Mathew Borg and Jason Connolly each scored 7.

The Coasties started the season with a "New" team, full of promise and after four matches were unbeaten, but from then on the "rot set in".

Like Canterbury, they could beat anybody on their day, but fell apart and without a mini rally near the end of the season would have been a challenger for the "Wooden Spoon".

Coach Dale Eggleton tried a number of his Premiership winning Under 19 team in first grade in an attempt to stop the rot, and although they per-



formed with distinction, they could not help them from finishing in eighth position.

Mitchell Daley was the pick of the regular first graders, but in Scott Jones, Mark Falzon, Ricki Metcalf, goalkeeper Matt Collits and Peter Becklar, they have talented young players who should be the backbone of future first grade teams. In a poor season for their strikers, Peter Preston

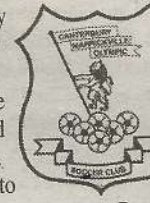
led the way with 5 goals and Mick Williams scored 3.

Yet another disappointing season for the Berries. Player problems at the start of the season and a change of Coach halfway through did nothing for the stability or performances of the Club.

This, together with having to move from Henson Park for a few matches mid season really had them on the back foot.

On their day Canterbury were equal to any other team but lacked consistency.

Coach Laki Konistsis tried hard when he took



control in the second half of the season but was always on the back foot with erratic performances.

Greg Collins put in many consistent performances in defence and John Pillimer tried hard up front but all in all it would be another season they would like to forget. Leading goalscorer was Andy Amegashie with 7 goals with Con Paradis adding 5.

Dropping from sixth in 2000/1 to tenth this season was a reflection of the problems that the Saints encountered at the beginning of the season.

Instability was a key word around Barton Park and it took Coach Manny Spanoudakis a lot of kind words and hard work to get a reasonable team on the field.

Yet, as the season wore on they surprised quite a few people, and opposing teams, with



their flair and ability and knocked up a few wins. There was no doubt that the arrival of "old timer" Bruno Beddoni, did wonders for the team and added a lot of experience and confidence to the side.

Being one of the oldest clubs in Sydney, and with a great history behind them, it is to be hoped that it is not long before the Saints return to the good old days. Beddoni ended the season as top scorer with 9 goals and Angelo Petratos added 4.

The Panthers won their first match of the season against Sutherland but that was their only victory during the competition. Even so, they proved to be very competitive, and often held the top teams to frustrating draws.

With Coach Tony Rasmussen taking over from long serving Stan Ackerley, they maintained their second last position on the table with a team of mostly talented youngsters and the experienced Osvaldo El Ali.

Chad Taylor, in goal, showed that the Premier League is full of top class 'keepers,



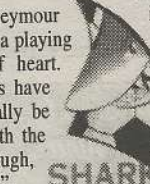
whilst up front Rod Hutchinson kept opposition defences honest. Whilst it may be many years until the Panthers are able to challenge for honours, nobody can deny the hard work and effort that Alan Perkins and his team of workers put into maintaining top soccer in the Nepean area.

With very limited finances they put many other clubs to shame! Rod Hutchinson, with 11 goals was the top scorer with Luke Boyd, Osvaldo El Ali, Paul Marosevic, Tim O'Connell and Jason Scibberas scoring 2 each.

Being last on the list doesn't necessarily mean being last in the competition, but for the second year in a row the Sharks did just this!

Coach Bill McColl, a stalwart at Seymour Shaw, had another frustrating season with a playing staff of limited experience but full of heart. Unfortunately, as a couple of other clubs have found out, it takes more than this to really be competitive with the "big spenders"! With the Under 19 team also finding the going tough, the Club took the "Wooden Spoon Double".

Moves during the latter part of the season to sign up experienced John Turner as coach with McColl



taking over a managerial role, shows that the Sharks are determined to improve their status in the future. For everybody involved in soccer in the Sutherland Shire it is to be hoped that the move is successful and that the Sharks once again become a force in the top Sydney competition.

Over the past few years the Sharks have struggled on the field and surely time must be just about running out. For the sake of the thousands of kids playing soccer in the area let's hope the move works! Kris Karanasos was top scorer with 6 goals and Monte Pfrengle scored 5.



NSW Super League



PREVIEW SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND NINE

MACARTHUR RAMS v MSC LIVERPOOL

This shapes up as a real grudge match between two sides who are desperate for some points. MSC Liverpool coach Brian Dene returns to his former home at Lynwood Park and he would like nothing better than a win.

"Despite our ladder position we haven't been playing all that badly" said Dene. "We are competitive in all of our matches but we have been let down by some silly mistakes in our back third that have cost us dearly. If we can iron out these problems we can do more than hold our own and I'll be looking to the Rams game as an opportunity for us to get ourselves on the board."

FRASER PARK v STANMORE HAWKS

A real inner west derby game which sees two of the League's top five aspirants go head to head. The Jets, by their own admission, didn't play all that well against Liverpool but still they managed to get the points.

They have lost just one game in their past six outings and haven't been beaten at home all season which puts the pressure squarely on the opposition. The

Hawks struggled to hold a second half rally from Crescent Star last weekend and will need to toughen up their defence if they are to win this match.

A lack of pace at the back is a real problem for coach Chris Karasis who'll need to make a change or two to his starting eleven. Derek Poimer will be a big loss for the Jets and will miss the game with a one week suspension.



Leo Carle opened the scoring for Rockdale at the weekend.



Brendan Salameh in action for Hajduk against Rockdale last week.

DULWICH HILL v HURSTVILLE CITY CRESCENT STAR

Dulwich Hill have won two of their past three games and will give themselves every chance this week to make it three from four.

There was a lot to like about their second half performance against Ryde City and with Dincer and Schnyder at their best they have the cattle to cause an upset.

Crescent Star won't be easy and having strengthened their side in recent weeks they are real top five material.

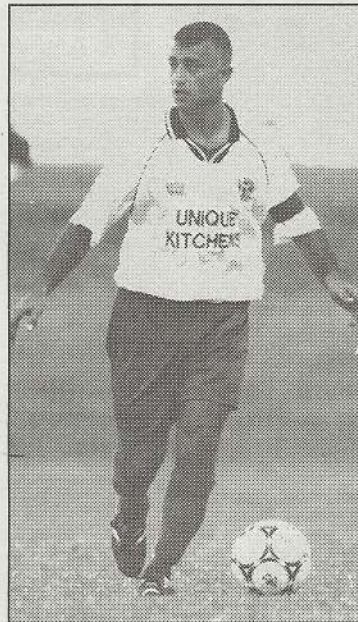
Michael Kladis, Evangelos Petratos and Archie Markopoulos form the basis of a side that has lost just one of their past four games and is ever improving each week.

RYDE CITY v SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

Ryde City are absolutely desperate for a win but it doesn't get any easier for them when they host Sydney University at picturesque Magdala Oval.

Coach Tony Dunn is expected to ring some changes to a side that has struggled to take their chances, though his list is somewhat limited with a long list of injured players.

Their main focus will be trying to stop Uni striker Rob Smithies who continues to score goals with gay abandon and his partner in crime Luke McDougall. If they can



Hajduk captain Mark Abi-Arrage.

do that and tighten their back four they are a good chance of getting their season started, with what would be just their second win.

MANLY-WARRINGAH v ROCKDALE CITY SUNS

This game could well be a dress rehearsal for the Super League Grand Final and pits second against first. With a number of quality National League players on parade, the hill at Cromer Park is expected to be chock-a-block for the game of the season thus far. Rockdale haven't been beaten all season but after some shaky performances against Hajduk and Macarthur they'll really need to improve if they are to trouble the Dolphins.

With Hamilton Thorp and Ryan Griffiths up front, the Dolphins have scored 15 goals in their past four games and are without question currently the form side of the competition.

But with the Suns Nick Bosevski and Spase Najdoski this game could well be a high scoring affair with plenty of quality football on offer.

HAJDUK WANDERERS v AC UNITED

The local derby at Hajduk Stadium takes on an added meaning with both sides currently settled into the top five and looking to push higher. AC United will look to English import Paul White to provide the inspiration, while Hajduk consider their own Gabriel Gonzalez as their man most likely.

"We have been playing well of late and although we were beaten last week, our game was full of merit" said coach Tommy McCulloch. "We just struggle with our consistency of running out a full ninety minutes and if we can rectify that, we will win more games than we lose" said coach Tom McCulloch.

With both coaches Tom McCulloch and Paul Carter former Socceroos and team mates in the National League, this match is expected to have a little pride on the line for both clubs!

Scoreboard

SUPER LEAGUE RD 8

SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS ..2
(L Carle 2m D Alilovic 58m)

AC UNITED3
(B Price 47', L Vincent 61', A Agyei 92')

HURSTVILLE CITY CS2
(Y Ekinci 40m Z Balabanel 41m)

DULWICH HILL2
(A Salim 78', J Rousseau 89')

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY2
(R Smithies 21/54')

MSC LIVERPOOL1
(S Watkins 14')

HAJDUK WANDERERS1
(T Brodie 30m)

MACARTHUR RAMS2
(K Babington 84', G Seymour 90')

STANMORE HAWKS2
(J Melissourgios 35m N Philippou 50m)

RYDE CITY0

MANLY WARRINGAH4
(P Moss 1', H Thorp 69/85', R Griffiths 80')

FRASER PARK JETS2
(A Jakia 43/63')

SUPER LEAGUE TABLE RD 8

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Rockdale City Suns	8	7	1	0	19	8	11	22
Manly Warringah Dolphins	8	6	1	1	21	9	12	19
AC United	8	5	1	2	20	16	4	16
Stanmore Hawks	8	4	2	2	15	8	7	14
Hajduk Wanderers	8	4	1	3	16	12	4	13
Fraser Park Jets	8	3	3	2	9	9	0	12
Hurstville City Crescent Star	8	3	2	3	17	17	0	11
Dulwich Hill	8	3	0	5	10	12	-2	9
Sydney University	8	2	1	5	16	17	-1	7
Macarthur Rams	8	2	0	6	8	19	-11	6
Ryde City	8	1	2	5	7	14	-7	5
MSC Liverpool	8	0	2	6	4	21	-17	2

SUPER LEAGUE FIXTURES ROUND 9

		1st Gd	Gd 21	Gd 19		
Sat 11-May	Lynwood Park	7:00PM	5:00PM	3:00PM	Macarthur Rams	v MSC Liverpool
Sun 12-May	Fraser Park	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM	Fraser Park	v Stanmore Hawks
Sun 12-May	Arlington Oval	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM	Dulwich Hill	v Hurstville City CS
Sun 12-May	Magdala Road	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM	Ryde City	v Sydney University
Sun 12-May	Cromer Park	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM	Manly Warringah Dolphins	v Rockdale City Suns
Sun 12-May	Hajduk Stadium	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM	Hajduk Wanderers	v AC United



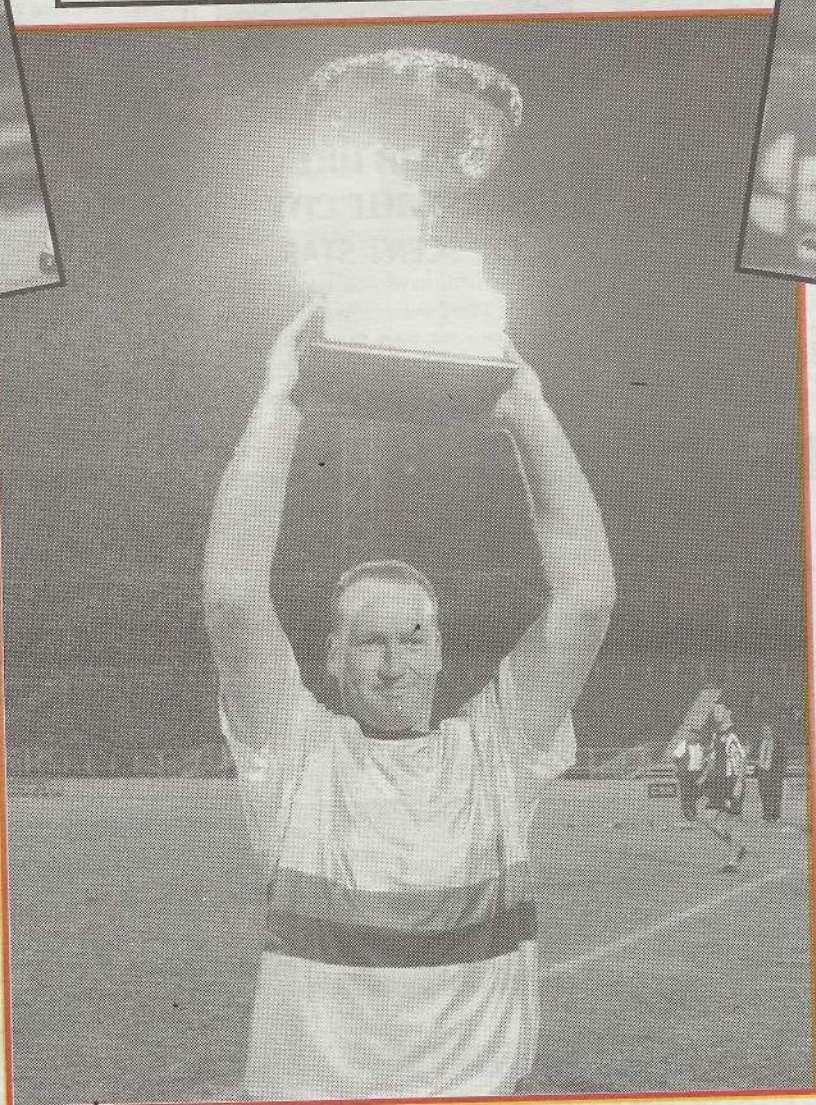
NSW Premier League



ALL THE ACTION FROM THE GRAND FINAL



John Crawley and Jason Holmes at the toss of the coin with referee Nick Asargiotis who had an outstanding Grand Final.



Eagles' captain Jason Holmes proudly holds up the Championship Trophy.



One of the many aerial challenges in the match.

Photos by Carlos Furtado



NSWSF President Tom Doumanis John Aquilina MP with the victorious skipper, Jason Holmes.
Disconsolate Blacktown players at the final whistle.
Jim Bakis shrugs off a double Blacktown challenge.





NSW Premier League



ALL THE ACTION FROM THE GRAND FINAL



WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

UNDER 19 GRAND FINAL

By Ray Sandell

The best two teams in the competition played out an entertaining Grand Final and, in accordance with tradition, the Premiers ended up victorious.

The majority of the players had played in an Under 18 Grand Final back in the Super League of 2000 and the Coasties were obviously intent on reversing the result of that game where the Tigers won 1-0.

A goal in the first minute by Peter Haynes shocked the life out of Leichhardt. Peter Becklar had made a break straight from the kick off and seemed certain to score but a desperate tackle by Kelvin Foster saw the ball go for a corner.

The resultant kick saw the ball go to the far post and Haynes rose majestically above the defence to give the Coasties a dream start. This was a Grand Final, things like this shouldn't happen!

Leichhardt were shocked, but to their credit quickly got back in the

game to such an extent that three minutes later Michael O'Riley shot over the bar from 8 metres to keep the Coasties on their toes.

The Tigers continued to press forward and Rocky Restuccia put the ball into the side netting after finding his way behind the Coasties defence.

From the goal kick Marc Falzon found himself in the Tiger's penalty area and blasted the ball over the bar. Seventeen minutes and it could have been 2-2!

The game settled, the rushes of blood died down, and both teams

decided there was still a long way to go. If anything Leichhardt were getting the better of the game but the Coasties defence was rock solid.

Tigers star striker, Andrew Falas was being safely held by the close marking of Scott Jones and David Brewer was controlling the middle like a man possessed.

Try as they might the Tigers were just not getting through the Coasties' defence and goal scoring efforts were minimal. During all this Haynes, Becklar and Ricky Metcalf were keeping the Leichhardt defenders busy with quick breaking attacks but were also having problems with scoring attempts. Half-time arrived with no change to the score.

After the break the Tigers went on the attack! Shots poured in from everywhere but if the defenders didn't get in the way, 'keeper Matty Collitts was on hand to deal with them. Coasties made a break, the ball bounced around in the Tigers penalty area and captain Falzon leapt over the crowd of players to head the Coasties into a two goal lead. From then on it was the Coasties all the way! Tigers coach John Romeo made five substitutions in ten minutes to try and get back into the game but to no avail. Revenge was sweet and the Coasties were not about to let it get away!

With ten minutes remaining the

other John, McLafferty from the Coasties, started to make the changes to give everybody on the bench a run. Eight minutes from time Nathan Byrn went around the penalty area, leaving defenders everywhere and coolly slotted the ball into an empty net for number three. For the rest of the game the Coasties savaged the Tigers goal but somehow there was no addition to the score. Like the Tigers the year before the Coasties had won the double!

Coasties John (McLafferty) was obviously a happy man. "Our defence was brilliant" he said, "and the midfield controlled the rest of the park."

We were fairly confident before the game, but to get a result like this is a dream come true. The boys have worked hard all year to get this and they deserve all the credit for a magnificent season."

The other John (Romeo) had no excuses. "The early goal shocked us, but the boys must be praised for the way they got back into the game. Up until the second goal we were still in the match but credit must be given to the opposition. On the day they deserved the win".

Two very even teams over a number of years, and still it was all square. Coasties had won this round but next year, who knows?



The jubilant Coasties Under 19 team.

LEICHHARDT TIGERS: Nelson, Cunningham, Cameron (Zarella), Foster, Foti (Raciti), Julliard (Nicolau), O'Riley, Quilty, Falas, Restuccia (DeKelley), Corte (Younis).

CENTRAL COAST: Collitts (Trott), Jones, Brewer, Wilkinson, Falzon, Mitchell, Metcalf (Butt), Haynes, Surridge (Shepherd), Becklar (Byrn), Bradley (Bush).

GOALS.

LEICHHARDT. Nil

COASTIES. Haynes 1min, Falzon 56min, Byrn 82min

CAUTIONS.

LEICHHARDT. Foster.

COASTIES. Nil.

REFEREE. Jim Nicolaou.

ASSISTANT REFEREES. Ernie Horvath, Peter Verrinder.

FOURTH OFFICIAL. Wayne Crabb.



NSW Super League



FEATURE MATCH



Rockdale City Suns

v



Hajduk Wanderers

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS2
(Carle 3'pen D.Alilovic 58')
HAJDUK WANDERERS1
(T.Brodie 30')
at Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre

Rockdale's unbeaten run now sits at eight games after posting an uninspiring 2-1 win over Hajduk Wanderers at home on Saturday afternoon.

Again looking listless for long periods of the match Rockdale did just enough to hold their hard running opponents and take the full three points.

The match started in controversial fashion when in the 3rd minute striker Spase Najdoski was bundled over by goalkeeper Darren Cross in a goal-mouth scrimmage. Referee Brett Hugo had no hesitation in pointing to the spot and Carle made no mistake with the spot kick.

After dominating the match territorially for the first twenty minutes, Rockdale fell back into old habits and allowed Hajduk to come storming back into the match. Livewire midfielder Todd Brodie was given some space by the Suns' markers in the 31st minute, and was able to put away a cross after a lovely turn to switch the ball to his preferred left side.

The second half was almost a carbon copy of the first. Rockdale started off well and went 2-1 up

when Wanderers goalkeeper Cross bought down Nick Bosevski inside the penalty box. Up stepped midfielder Denis Alilovic who sent the 'keeper the wrong way to give his side the lead. But just as they seemed certain to push on, the Suns dropped off their intensity and gave the Wanderers plenty of opportunity to post an equaliser.

With Gabriel Gonzalez and Todd Brodie finding some space Hajduk pushed forward in numbers with both Tim Gledhill and substitute Steve Jordan butchering some golden chances to find an equaliser. In the end time ran out for the visitors but it was more through good luck than good management that the home side lived to fight another day.

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS: Peter Trajceviski, Richard Plesa, Alex Kotevich, Jose Mendes, Peter Apolevski, Spase Najdoski (Zoki Adioski 70'), Denis Alilovic (Iain MacDonald 78'), Malcolm Bideau, Leo Carle (Nick Bosevski 52'), Hong Juel Ju, Ben Deighan; *Coach: Mile Todoroski.*
HAJDUK WANDERERS: Darren Cross, Scott Bailey, Robert Kuman, Mark Abi-Arrage, Tim Gledhill, Todd Brodie, J.J.Ellul, Trent Worall, Brenden Salameh, Mauro Van Cuylenburg (Steve Jordan 67'), Gabriel Gonzalez; *Coach: Tom McCulloch.*

ROUND 8 WRAP-UP

HURSTVILLE CITY CS2
(Balabanel 38' Ekinci 40')
STANMORE HAWKS2
(Melissourgos 35'pen Phillpou 47')
at St George Stadium.

Hurstville City made all the running in this match and were very unlucky not to take all three points. Stanmore scored first via a Jim Melissourgos penalty after Steve Liavas was bought down in the box but Crescent Star replied with 2 goals just prior to half-time.

The unmarked Tanju Balabanel put away a loose ball in the box after Stanmore goalkeeper Peter Spathis had saved Hussein Jomaas' first time shot in the 38th minute while Yavus Ekinci made the most of a goalmouth scramble to find the net two minutes later.

The second half was action packed with Neil Phillpou getting his side back on level terms two minutes after the resumption with a great shot at the near post, but after that it was all Crescent Star. Spathis deserves special mention as he pulled off four top quality saves in the final ten minutes to give his side an even share of the points.

AC UNITED3
(B.Price 47' L.Vincent 61' A.Agyei 90+)
MACARTHUR RAMS2
(K.Babington 84' G.Seymour 90')
at Abruzzi Field

AC United bounced back into the winners circle posting a hard fought 3-2 win over Macarthur Rams at Abruzzi Field. After a scoreless first half, the game really opened out in the second with the home side scoring two goals in the first twenty minutes after the resumption.

But to their credit the Rams never gave in with two goals from Kory Babington and Gary Seymour which put the visitors back on level terms. However, a 92nd minute winner from young Agyei proved the difference sending the home crowd into raptures and AC back into the top three.

DULWICH HILL2
(A.Salim 78' J.Rousseau 89')

RYDE CITY0
at Arlington Oval.
Another late defensive capitulation by Ryde City handed Dulwich Hill the full three points in an entertaining encounter at Arlington Oval.

With Greg Collins leading the way, Ryde City looked dangerous in the first half with Ben Burrows and Will Mailer both sending shots narrowly wide. But just as it seemed the game was heading for a scoreless draw, Alf Salem took the game by the scruff of the neck and made something out of nothing with a right foot strike in the 78th minute. Dulwich Hill capped off a memorable win in the dying moments when John Rousseau scored a late goal.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY2
(R.Smithies 21' 54')
MANLY-WARRINGAH4
(P.Moss 1' H.Thorp 69' 85' R.Griffiths 80')
at University Oval No 1.

Manly defender Phil Moss got this game off to an interesting start when he gave his team a 1-0 lead inside the first 60 seconds. While the goal stunned the home side they quickly got down to business with Rob Smithies putting away an equaliser in the 21st minute and giving his side the lead just after the resumption.

But, like a good side, the Robbie Slater coached Dolphins clicked into gear and blew their opponents off the park with a withering second half burst. Hamilton Thorp picked himself up a brace while the rampaging Ryan Griffiths also scored to keep Manly well entrenched in second place.

MSC LIVERPOOL1
(S.Watkins 14')
FRASER PARK JETS2
(A.Faria 43' 63'pen)
at Hammondville Oval.

Liverpool can't seem to take a trick at the moment slumping to their sixth defeat of the Super League season. Despite starting off strongly and looking the better of the two sides throughout the first half, they again allowed some silly mistakes in their back third to throw the game away.

To their credit the Jets were solid but weren't all that impressive as they seemingly coasted for long periods in the match. Derek Poimer earned the ire of the referee when he was sent off in the second half but even against 10 men Liverpool were unable to grab an equaliser. Tony Faria was the hero scoring his first goal directly from a corner when Adam Snyder dummied beautifully for the ball to trickle harmlessly in off the back post, while his second was a penalty after the Poimer incident.



NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues



THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE RD 11

Sat 11 May	U13	U14	U15	U17		
Brandon Park 2	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Wollongong Wolves v	Parramatta Eagles
South Nowra	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Southern Branch v	St George
Marconi 2	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Marconi Stallions v	Leichhardt Tigers
Seymour Shaw	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Sutherland Shire v	Penrith Panthers
Plum Park	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Central Coast v	Olympic Sharks
Gabbie Stadium	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Blacktown City v	Northern Spirit
Cromer Park	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Manly Warringah v	Sydney United

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE RD 11

Sat 11 May	U13	U14	U15	U17		
Lynwood Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	1:15 PM	Macarthur Rams v	Hajduk Wanderers
Mingara Club	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Mingara Lakers v	Newcastle United
Abruzzi Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	AC United v	C'bury Marrickville
Serbian Centre	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Bonnyrigg WE v	Bankstown City
Parklands Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc v	Nepean Assoc
Nineveh Field	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Fairfield Bulls v	Eastern Suburbs
Oakville Reserve	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hills United v	Blacktown Assoc
Sun 12-May (Round 4)						
Nineveh Field	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	Fairfield Bulls v	Blacktown Assoc

DIVISION 1 YOUTH LEAGUE RD 11

Sat 11 May	U13	U14	U15	U17		
CSI Club	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	1:15 PM	Schofields Spions v	Camden Tigers
Magdala Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Ryde City v	Parramatta City
Macedonia Field	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Illawarra Lions v	MSC Liverpool
Cook Pk	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Mt Pritchard v	Granville Assoc
Pratten Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Stanmore Hawks v	Dulwich Hill
C'denville Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hurstville City CS v	Hawkesbury City
Rockdale Ilinden	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Rockdale City v	Mt Druitt Town

PREMIER CADET LEAGUE RD 11

Sat 11 May	U11	U12		
Marconi 2	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Marconi Stallions v	Leichhardt Tigers
Seymour Shaw	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Sutherland Shire Sharks v	Penrith Panthers
Plum Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Central Coast Coasties v	Olympic Sharks
Gabbie Stadium	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Blacktown City Demons v	Northern Spirit
Cromer Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Manly Warringah Dolphins v	Sydney United
Sun 12-May				
South Nowra	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Southern Branch YL v	St George
Brandon Park 2	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Wollongong Wolves v	Parramatta Eagles

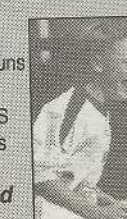
SUPER CADET LEAGUE RD 6

Sun 12 May	U11	U12		
Hajduk Stadium	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Hajduk Wanderers v	Fairfield Bulls
Oakville Reserve	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Hills United v	Macarthur Rams
Mingara Club	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Mingara Lakers v	Eastern Suburbs
Jensen Park	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Bankstown City Cubs v	AC United
Serbian Centre	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Bonnyrigg White Eagles v	C'bury Marrickville

DIVISION 1 CADET LEAGUE RD 6

Sun 12 May	U11	U12		
Ron Dine Reserve	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Camden Tigers v	MSC Liverpool
Bensons Lane	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Hawkesbury City v	Parramatta City
Magdala Oval	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Ryde City v	Rockdale City Suns
Popondetta Park	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Mt Druitt Town v	Mt Pritchard
Macedonia Field	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Illawarra Lions v	Hurstville City CS
CSI Club	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	Schofield Scorpions v	Stanmore Hawks

Side of page: Action from last week's U13's match between Wollongong and Penrith featuring Cameron, Michael, Jamie and Aaron.





NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues



PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE R10

Penrith Panthers v Wollongong Wolves

As most would expect, the Panthers and the Wolves shared the points evenly in this Kingswood Park clash. Penrith were too good in the 13s although the closeness of the 2-1 final score may surprise some and then the Panthers were superior again in the 14s where they collected the points as a result of a 3-1 scoreline. The Wolves then took over the points gathering process with a 2-0 win in the 15s and then they proceeded to score three goals without reply in the 17s.

Leichhardt Tigers v St George

The Lambert Park based club had a reasonably good day when they took a valuable ten points from their guests. The Tigers' 13s began the day for the club with a 1-0 win to remain in third place before the 14s battled out a scoreless draw in what will be viewed as a good result for the Saints.

Leichhardt gained the upper hand in the 15s and won it with the only goal of the game. It came as no surprise to see the home team win the 17s conclusively with a 4-1 final score.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE R10

Canterbury Marrickville v Macarthur Rams

While Canterbury remained at the foot of the combined table, the six points they took from the visiting Rams may give them some confidence for the future.

John Franco's young Rams gave the home team a bit of a lesson in the 13s with a solid 6-2 win and then Bill Garriock's second-placed 14s went on with the job with a 3-0 victory.

Canterbury then took control of the rest of the day with their 15s beating Mark Williams' Rams by the surprisingly narrow 2-1 scoreline before Canterbury's 17s bagged all the points with a 3-1 win over Glen Lockhart's side.

Fairfield Bulls v Hills United

Hills began their visit to the Neneveth Field well but they could not sustain their early momentum. They will regard their 2-2 draw with the better-placed Bulls as being a very good result while their 2-0 in the 14s will be viewed by many as being simply outstanding given their relative points on the table.

On the other hand, the Bulls moved closer to the fifth-placed Hills in the 15s with a 4-2 victory and then the Fairfielders caused Hills 17s to drop points for the second consecutive week when they played out a 1-1 draw.

DIV ONE YOUTH LEAGUE RD 10

Hawkesbury City CS v Rockdale City Suns

The Tigers are eighteen points clear at the top of the combined table and they once again showed why they are leading the way in this overall competition.

Their Alex Prohett coached 13s had an 8-0 result with goals from Dave Mathis (3), Barry Mathis (2), Scott Clarkson, Darren Shadlow and Joel Harvey. That was followed by a 6-0 win from Steve Bowers' 14s, the goals were courtesy of Jed Hilmi, Tristan Maulquet, David Blows, Scott Baldin, Dominic Fricot and Daniel Small ... Trevor Davis' unbeaten 15s suffered a second hiccup in as many weeks when they were held to a 2-2 draw by lowly City. Camden's goals came from Jordan Hayter and John Mattheson. And then Vince Pesa's 17s posted a surprisingly close 1-0 win over last-placed Hawkesbury thanks to a John Bolger goal.

RESULTS AND TABLES

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 10: GRADE 13:

Parramatta Eagles 3 Southern Branch YL 1, Penrith Panthers 2 Wollongong Wolves 1, Olympic Sharks 4 Sutherland Shire Sharks 0, Leichhardt Tigers 1 St George 0, Blacktown City Demons 1 Central Coast Coasties 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Northern Spirit 2, Marconi Stallions 1 Sydney United 1. GRADE 14: Parramatta Eagles 3 Southern Branch YL 0, Penrith Panthers 3 Wollongong Wolves 1, Olympic Sharks 5 Sutherland Shire Sharks 0, Leichhardt Tigers 0 St George 0, Blacktown City Demons 6 Central Coast Coasties 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Northern Spirit 4, Marconi Stallions 3 Sydney United 0. GRADE 15: Parramatta Eagles 5 Southern Branch YL 1, Penrith Panthers 0 Wollongong Wolves 2, Olympic Sharks 3 Sutherland Shire Sharks 1, Leichhardt Tigers 1 St George 0, Blacktown City Demons 2 Central Coast Coasties 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 Northern Spirit 3, Marconi Stallions 0 Sydney United 1. GRADE 17: Parramatta Eagles 2 Southern Branch YL 2, Penrith Panthers 0 Wollongong Wolves 3, Olympic Sharks 1 Sutherland Shire Sharks 2, Leichhardt Tigers 4 St George 1, Blacktown City Demons 2 Central Coast Coasties 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Northern Spirit 2, Marconi Stallions 3 Sydney United 2.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 10: GRADE 13: Nepean Association 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2, Hajduk Wanderers 0 Mingara Lakers 0, Canterbury Marrickville 2 Macarthur Rams 6, Bankstown City Cubs 1 AC United 0, Eastern Suburbs Association 1 Ku-ring-gai Association 1, Fairfield Bulls 2 Hills United 2, Newcastle United 1 Blacktown Association 1. GRADE 14: Nepean Association 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Hajduk Wanderers 0 Mingara Lakers 1, Canterbury Marrickville 0 Macarthur Rams 3, Bankstown City Cubs 1 AC United 3, Eastern Suburbs Association 3 Ku-ring-gai Association 2, Fairfield Bulls 0 Hills United 1, Newcastle United 0 Blacktown Association 0. GRADE 15: Nepean Association 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Hajduk Wanderers 2 Mingara Lakers 2, Canterbury Marrickville 2 Macarthur Rams 1, Bankstown City Cubs 2 AC United 0, Eastern Suburbs Association 3 Ku-ring-gai Association 6, Fairfield Bulls 4 Hills United 2, Newcastle United 3 Blacktown Association 0. GRADE 17: Nepean Association 3 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3, Hajduk Wanderers 1 Mingara Lakers 1, Canterbury Marrickville 3 Macarthur Rams 1, Bankstown City Cubs 2 AC United 3, Eastern Suburbs Association 0 Ku-ring-gai Association 1, Fairfield Bulls 1 Hills United 1, Newcastle United 9 Blacktown Association 0. **ROUND 4: GRADE 13:** Mingara Lakers 1 Ku-ring-gai Association 0. **GRADE 14:** Mingara Lakers 1 Ku-ring-gai Association 0. **GRADE 15:** Mingara Lakers 0 Ku-ring-gai Association 2. **GRADE 17:** Mingara Lakers 2 Ku-ring-gai Association 0.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 10: GRADE 13: Granville Association 1 Illawarra Lions 1, Schofield Scorpions 6 Stanmore Hawks 2, MSC Liverpool 0 Ryde City 1, Dulwich Hill 0 Mt Pritchard 0, Hawkesbury City 0 Camden Tigers 8, Hurstville City Crescent Star 5 Rockdale City Suns 0, Parramatta City 4 Mt Druitt Town 0. **GRADE 14:** Granville Association 4 Illawarra Lions 0, Schofield Scorpions 2 Stanmore Hawks 1, MSC Liverpool 0 Ryde City 1, Dulwich Hill 1 Mt Pritchard 1, Hawkesbury City 0 Camden Tigers 6, Hurstville City Crescent Star 1 Rockdale City Suns 2, Parramatta City 1 Mt Druitt Town 3. **GRADE 15:** Granville Association 0 Illawarra Lions 0, Schofield Scorpions 3 Stanmore Hawks 1, MSC Liverpool 2 Ryde City 1, Dulwich Hill 1 Mt Pritchard 3, Hawkesbury City 2 Camden Tigers 2, Hurstville City Crescent Star 1 Rockdale City Suns 4, Parramatta City 2 Mt Druitt Town 2. **GRADE 17:** Granville Association 1 Illawarra Lions 0, Schofield Scorpions 3 Stanmore Hawks 3, MSC Liverpool 0 Ryde City 1, Dulwich Hill 1 Mt Pritchard 0, Hawkesbury City 0 Camden Tigers 1, Hurstville City Crescent Star 2 Rockdale City Suns 4, Parramatta City 2 Mt Druitt Town 2.

PREMIER CADET LEAGUE: ROUND 10: GRADE 11: Leichhardt Tigers 2 St George 0, Blacktown City Demons 1 Central Coast Coasties 3, Manly Warringah Dolphins 2 Northern Spirit 1, Marconi Stallions 2 Sydney United 0, Olympic Sharks 1 Sutherland Shire Sharks 1. **GRADE 12:** Leichhardt Tigers 1 St George 1, Blacktown City Demons 3 Central Coast Coasties 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Northern Spirit 3, Marconi Stallions 7 Sydney United 2, Olympic Sharks 1 Sutherland Shire Sharks 0. **ROUND 10: GRADE 11:** Penrith Panthers 2 Wollongong Wolves 1, Parramatta Eagles 6 Southern Branch YL 1. **GRADE 12:** Penrith Panthers 1 Wollongong Wolves 2, Parramatta Eagles

1 Southern Branch YL 1.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE: ROUND 5: GRADE 11: AC United 5 Mingara Lakers 1. **GRADE 12:** AC United 2 Mingara Lakers 0. **ROUND 5: GRADE 11:** Hills United 5 Fairfield Bulls 0, Canterbury Marrickville 0 Bankstown City Cubs 1, Macarthur Rams 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Eastern Suburbs Association 4 Hajduk Wanderers 0. **GRADE 12:** Hills United 3 Fairfield Bulls 1, Canterbury Marrickville 1 Bankstown City Cubs 0, Macarthur Rams 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Eastern Suburbs Association 4 Hajduk Wanderers 0.

DIVISION ONE CADET LEAGUE: ROUND 5: GRADE 11: Rockdale City Suns 1 Hawkesbury City 2, Hurstville City Crescent Star 1 Mt Druitt Town 3. **GRADE 12:** Rockdale City Suns 2 Hawkesbury City 1, Hurstville City Crescent Star 3 Mt Druitt Town 3. **ROUND 5: GRADE 11:** Parramatta City 0 Camden Tigers 3, Mt Pritchard 3 Ryde City 0 (Win by Forfeit), Illawarra Lions 3 Schofield Scorpions 3, MSC Liverpool 0 Stanmore Hawks 0. **GRADE 12:** Parramatta City 0 Camden Tigers 4, Mt Pritchard 1 Ryde City 2, Illawarra Lions 1 Schofield Scorpions 2, MSC Liverpool 2 Stanmore Hawks 0.

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Northern Spirit	10	8	2	0	27	10	17	26
Parramatta Eagles	10	8	2	0	24	8	16	26
Leichhardt Tigers	10	6	2	2	18	6	20	18
Olympic Sharks	10	5	3	2	13	6	7	18
Blacktown City	9	5	2	2	20	6	14	17
Penrith Panthers	10	4	3	3	14	11	3	15
St George	10	4	1	5	17	21	-4	13
Marconi Stallions	9	3	3	3	13	10	3	12
Central Coast	10	3	3	4	16	16	0	12
Sutherland Shire	10	3	2	5	11	20	-10	11
Manly Warringah	10	3	1	6	11	16	-5	10
Sydney United	10	1	2	7	8	18	-10	5
Wollongong Wolves	10	1	1	8	8	18	-10	4
Southern Branch YL	10	1	1	8	9	32	-23	4

GRADE 14:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Northern Spirit	10	8	2	0	42	10	32	26
Olympic Sharks	10	6	3	1	30	9	21	21
Marconi Stallions	9	6	3	0	20	9	11	21
Blacktown City	9	6	2	1	20	7	13	20
Central Coast	10	5	2	3	17	18	-1	17
Penrith Panthers	10	4	2	4	13	12	1	14
Leichhardt Tigers	10	4	2	4	7	18	-11	14
Sutherland Shire	10	3	2	5	9	17	-8	11
Manly Warringah	10	3	2	5	7	15	-8	11
Parramatta Eagles	10	2	4	4	10	13	-3	10
Sydney United	10	2	3	5	15	20	-5	9
Wollongong Wolves	10	2	1	7	9	17	-8	7
St George	10	1	3	6	8	24	-16	6
Southern Branch YL	10	1	1	8	9	27	-18	4

GRADE 15:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Plympton Sharks	10	9	1	0	41	5	36	28
Marconi Stallions	9	7	1	1	24	7	17	22
Wollongong Wolves	10	7	0	3	23	10	13	21
Sydney United	10	6	2	2	18	7	11	20
Parramatta Eagles	10	6	1	3	29	13	16	19
Blacktown City	9	6	1	2	21	7	14	19
Northern Spirit	10	5	2	3	22	11	11	17
Sutherland Shire	10	4	2	4	9	12	-3	14
Central Coast	10	3	2	5	14	13	1	11
Penrith Panthers	10	3	0	7	7	30	-23	9
Leichhardt Tigers	10	3	0	7	6	37	-31	9
Southern Branch YL	10	2	1	7	4	21	-17	7
St George	10	0	2	8	4	25	-21	2
Manly Warringah	10	0	1	9	5	26	-21	1

GRADE 17:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Blacktown City	9	8	0	1	23	9	14	24
Sutherland Shire	10	7	0	3	16	6	0	21
Northern Spirit	10	6	2	2	18	6	12	20
Wollongong Wolves	10	6	1	3	17	7	10	19
Olympic Sharks	9	6	0	3	22	11	11	18
Penrith Panthers	10	5	2	3	17	13	4	17
Parramatta Eagles	10	4	2	4	11	13	-2	14
Leichhardt Tigers	10	4	1	5	24	16	8	13
Central Coast	10	3	3	4	7	15	-8	12
Sydney United	10	3	1	6	15	17	-2	10
Marconi Stallions	9	3	0	6	12	19	-7	9
Manly Warringah	10	3	0	7	11	18	-7	9
Southern Branch YL	9	1	3	5	13	29	-16	6
St George	10	1	1	8	11	28	-17	4

COMBINED:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Northern Spirit	40	27	8	5	109	37	72	89
Olympic Sharks	39	26	7	6	106	31	75	85

Blacktown City

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Blacktown City	36	25	5	6	84	29	55	80
Parramatta Eagles	40	20	9	11	74	47	27	69
Marconi Stallions	36	19	7	10	69	45	24	64
Sutherland Shire	40	17	6	17	45	66	-21	57
Leichhardt Tigers	40	17	5	18	55	87	-32	56
Penrith Panthers	40	16	7	17	51	66	-15	55
Central Coast	40	14	10	16	54	62	-8	52
Wollongong Wolves	40	16	3	21	57	55	2	51
Sydney United	40	12	8	20	56	62	-6	44
Manly Warringah	40	9	4	27	34	75	-41	31
St George	40	6	7	27	40	98	-58	25
Southern Branch YL	39	5	6	28	35	109	-74	21

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Nepean Assoc	10	8	2	0	36	7	29	26
Newcastle United	10	7	3	0	27	4	23	24
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	10	6	3	1	33	14	19	21
Mingara Lakers	10	6	1	3	11	14	-3	19
Macarthur Rams	10	6	0	4	26	18	8	18
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	10	5	1	4	22	22	0	16
Bankstown City Cubs	10	4	3	3	9	15	-6	15
Fairfield Bulls	9	4	1	4	23	20	3	13
Hajduk Wanderers	10	3	3	4	16	22	-6	12
Blacktown Assoc	9	3	1	5	9	21	-12	10
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	10	2	2	6	6	15	-9	8
AC United	10	1	2	7	13	24	-11	5
Hills United	10	0	3	7	4	17	-13	3
Canterbury Marrickville	10	0	3	7	3	9	-22	3

GRADE 14:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Newcastle United	10	8	2	0	29	6	23	26
Macarthur Rams	10	8	1	1	30	3	27	25
AC United	10	6	3	1	24	10	14	21
Blacktown Assoc	9	6	1	2	23	10	13	19
Hajduk Wanderers	10	6	1	3	18	14	4	19
Nepean Assoc	10	5	1	4	15	15	0	16
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	9	4	0	5	13	20	-7	12
Bankstown City Cubs	10	3	2	5	12	17	-5	11
Fairfield Bulls	9	3	2	4	12	17	-5	11
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	9	2	3	4	10	13	-3	9
Hills United	10	3	0	7	15	23	-8	9
Mingara Lakers	10	2	3	5	6	16	-10	9
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	10	1	1	8	10	30	-20	4
Canterbury Marrickville	10	0	2	8	3	26	-23	2

GRADE 15:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Bankstown City Cubs	10	9	1	0	27	3	24	28
Newcastle United	10	6	3	1	29	8	21	21
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	10	6	2	2	23	9	14	20
AC United	10	5	2	3	19	13	6	17
Hills United	10	4	2	4	21	17	4	14
Fairfield Bulls	9	4	2	3	16	17	-1	14
Mingara Lakers	10	4	2	4	18	21	-3	14
Nepean Assoc	10	3	3	4	15	20	-5	12
Canterbury Marrickville	10	3	2	5	7	19	-12	11
Blacktown Assoc	9	2	4	3	10	12	-2	10
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	10	2	3	5	14	21	-7	9
Hajduk Wanderers	10	0	7	3	10	18	-8	7
Penrith White Eagles	10	1	3	6	5	25	-20	6
Wentworth Rams	10	1	2	7	9	20	-11	5



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GRASS ROOTS SOCCER

Communication is vital for soccer to flourish and over the last few months with unification of the NSW Amateurs and the NSW Soccer Federation fast approaching, positive inroads have been crossed.

We are jointly working on marketing and sponsorship opportunities, committees for competitions and developing a schools development program that will increase the growth of soccer participation in NSW.

Soccer Australia is about to release their business plan and financial analysis showing

the direction the governing body is taking and how they intend to get there.

As previously agreed back in January, upon receipt of Soccer Australia's plans we will put the increased National Registration Fee to you, the members for consideration.

GLENHAVEN UNDER 10'S



BEHIND THE FRONT DESK

Who is the person behind the voice at the NSWASF Head Office at Glenwood?

It's Sandra Romano! Sandra is the first contact at NSW Amateur Soccer Federation for the thousands of callers who ring each day enquiring about their local club, local competitions and soccer merchandise and has played a vital role in the development of the new website.

Sandra is an important member of the team at the



Sandra Romano

Amateurs and in her first 12 months has definitely learned a lot about the game, the passion and the people involved!

JUNIOR LEAGUE FIXTURES

ROUND 8

TEAM A	TEAM V	AGE	GROUND	TIME
Sunday 12 May	Blacktown v Ku-Ring-Gai	11	Francis Park	9:00
Sunday 12 May	Highlands v Granville	11	Yerrinbool Oval	10:00
Sunday 12 May	Central Coast v Nepean	11	Pluim Park	10:00
Sunday 12 May	Sutherland v Bankstown	11	Bates Drive	10:00
Sunday 12 May	Blacktown v Ku-Ring-Gai	12	Francis Park	10:00
Sunday 12 May	Sutherland v Bankstown	12	Bates Drive	11:00
Sunday 12 May	Highlands v Granville	12	Yerrinbool Oval	11:00
Sunday 12 May	Central Coast v Nepean	12	Pluim Park	11:00

STATE, ROBERTSON & AMATEUR CUPS

STATE CUP

The State Cup tournament comprises of Club teams in the U14, U16, U18 and AA Women. Teams from the Various NSW Amateur Associations nominate their teams to represent them in the State Cup.

The tournament is run on a knock-out basis over 5 rounds depending on entries with the finals for all ages being hosted this year by the Manly-Warringah Association.

ROBERTSON CUP - U21

Proudly Sponsored by the Robertson Family, Highlands NSW.

This popular U21 tournament attracts entries from Association Club teams all over NSW. Teams play on a knock-out basis at various grounds in city and country NSW.

AMATEUR CUP —

All Age

This prestigious All Age Men's Competition attracts between 60 — 100 teams each year and is played on grounds all over NSW.

The Amateur Cup Trophy was donated by the Gray family, previously of Sylvania and is highly recognised as one of the most competitive AA tournaments in the country.

STATE, ROBERTSON AND AMATEUR CUP FINALS

Proudly hosted by Manly-Warringah Soccer Association.

Sunday 4th August, 2002

Cromer Park, Dee Why.

Further information is available on our Website -

["http://www.nswasf.com.au"](http://www.nswasf.com.au)
www.nswasf.com.au

CANBERRA NEWS

BY GRAHAM COOKE

It is not often that a coach is enthusiastic about a loss, but Ian Heywood reckons the Canberra Rockets 2-1 beating by the Australian Turkish Community in the annual Anzac Cup in Melbourne was his team's best performance since he took over.

This was the third game in the annual series, and the first outside Canberra, but Heywood said the Rockets had not played as well in the previous two games, which they won.

"I really think that after four

HEYWOOD'S PRAISE FOR THE CANBERRA ROCKETS

years of picking whatever players were available, we are settling into a good squad," he said.

"We've tended to rely heavily on veterans in the past, but Jimmy Baxter is the only player over 30 in the current line-up."

He was also pleased that after years of scratching around for

games, the Rockets are at last beginning to build a worthwhile fixture list. "We play the Illawarra League on Queen's Birthday weekend, South Australia in July and we'll probably have another match against NSW in the spring," he said.

"Now all we need is an Asian

tour and it would be perfect..."

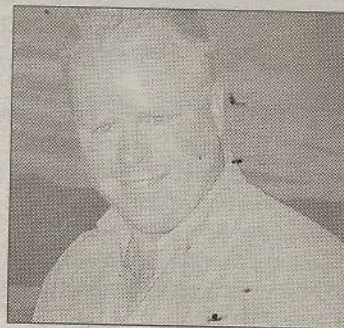
Against the Turks, the Rockets trailed midway through the first half in the goal resulting from a misunderstanding between goalkeeper Brett Dickson and defender Robbie Schroder.

Heywood said the team had a number of excellent chances

before the equaliser 10 minutes from the end scored by Carl Pideski from an Andy Rakic cross.

"Even after that we could have finished the game with a couple of really good opportunities in the final minutes," he said.

Three minutes into golden goal extra time the Turks grabbed the winner with a lob over the head of Angelo Konstantinou who had replaced Dickson at half time.



Ian Heywood: Canberra Rockets coach happy about his sides performance against the Australian Turkish side.

10,000 JUNIORS KICK CANBERRA SOCCER SEASON OFF

The ACT's junior soccer season kicked off at the weekend with numbers hovering tantalisingly close to the 10,000 mark.

Officials are confident that as a few late registrations are processed, the long-standing target will finally be achieved.

Soccer Canberra chief executive Alan Lee said Goulburn had entered a junior team for the first time, while there were four from

Cooma.

"We also know we have players from Bungendore and even Braidwood who have signed up for the new Monaro junior club," he said.

Meanwhile the Kanga Cup international junior competition, scheduled to be played in Canberra from July 7 to 14, has received 26 entries from the United States, three from New Zealand, two from Ghana and one from Fiji.

Organiser Mark Louis said that with interstate and local support, last year's record figure of 171 teams should be beaten. "We may even come close to 200," he said.

Work was already in progress for the 2003 competition with a stall supporting that event at this month's soccer expo in Sydney.

"Mind you, if anyone comes to us asking for a late entry into this year's competition, we won't turn them away," he said.

Joanne Peters:

A PROUD AUSTRALIAN MATILDA

By Stuart Jones

Joanne Peters has had a life less ordinary. She was blessed with a talent for soccer that has led her onto the international stage and has just set off on a path well travelled by footballers around the nation, that of playing club football overseas.

Born in Leeton NSW, Joey was the daughter of a Uniting Church minister. She grew up playing soccer in a town more known as an Aussie Rules area. "My brother played soccer and whilst the boys grew up and moved into different sports I found it easier for me to stay involved in soccer. I enjoyed playing all sports but I was good at soccer in particular."

So good in fact that when her family moved to Sydney, when Joey was aged 12, she was picked as part of development projects. "I went to a development program at Narrabeen and David Lee spotted me. I was moved into talented athlete programs and quickly progressed through the ranks. At 13 I was playing in the under 16 state team and by 16 I was playing in the state open side."

Whilst attending Peakhurst High Joey's aim was to play soccer at the highest levels. "I knew about the women's national team and I just wanted to play. I was doing soccer three or four times a week so I did not have time for much else."

She was still at High School when she made her debut in February 1996 against New Zealand and in the 3-0 result she contributed a goal. It was certainly a match for her to remember. She had risen to the heights but life has a way of pulling you down and so it did in this instance. March 1997 saw her last game for a while (for the Matildas against the USA) as afterwards she underwent a full knee reconstruction, which put her out for quite a while. She missed a European tour but managed to work herself back into contention for the national side and ended up being a big part of the 1999 World Cup team.

"To play in a tournament that big was amazing. To concern myself with things like huge crowds, being escorted to the grounds by police, having to tape up gear so not to put

sponsors offside was just terrific. I played the first two games before injuring the same knee as in 1997 and that put me out once more."

Once again she had reached the pinnacle of world football but just touched it before having her world swept away from under her by injury. This time it took longer to recover as the treatment was not as it should have been. Another long lay off from the game was very hard to take. "I had to sort my life out. I was just on 21 and I knew I was not at the right place to continue playing soccer anyway. The injury gave me a chance to work through things and determine what life was really about."

Once I realised soccer was not the be all and end all it actually improved my attitude to the game. My Christianity was now more important and it helped me feel more relaxed about soccer. During the Olympics I went and watched the girls in one match and I really felt



Joanne Peters: Matildas star with a brilliant future.

for the girls as they failed to progress as far as they really could have. However I was not too devastated about not being out there as I knew mentally (as well as physically) I was not up to being out on the pitch. If there is one thing now that I try not to have it is regrets."

Missing the Olympics through injury was a low point though but as Peters recovered she found the progression through the ranks back to international status a steady one.

"For me it was about gradual stepping stones. I played in the Sydney League for Sutherland then got called into the NSW

Sapphires team and then finally got the call from Adrian Santrac to join the Aussie camp for the Australia Cup tournament. It was great when Adrian came in. He gave us all a clean sheet and showed a keen interest in my ability on the pitch. It was great for the self-confidence. When I got back I noticed the team spirit was awesome, some of the past problems were overcome and the team had a nice mix of older and younger players."

That Australia Cup tournament saw Joey Peters score the most important goal of her career so far. "In the last game against South Korea I scored the only goal of the match and we won the tournament because of that game. It was the best game I have been involved in for me personally." Joanne Peters was back on top of the footballing world. Since then she has toured overseas with the Matildas and she sees the side as just getting stronger, and her own game improving.

"We are getting better all the time and although our last tour was not as successful on the pitch as it could have been we are still progressing well. Personally my knee is strong and thanks to God's grace I have been able to stay fit and healthy."

Joey Peters has just left these shores to become yet another soccer export from this nation. She will play in W1 (first division of USA women's soccer) for the Charlotte Eagles in North Carolina. However she is not lost to Australian soccer as that is for four months before she returns here for next season.

Joanne Peters is an attacking central midfielder and her ambitions are not easy to achieve; "I have tried to keep my feet on the ground. I realise I have a long way to go to be my best but that is what I am aiming for. I want to be one of the best players in the world but I have a way to go yet. It is not meant, as a boasting thing but every player should aim to be the best so that there are no barriers they can not overcome. I am still realising my potential but I will always strive to be the best."

From the heights to the depths in a very short space of time is where soccer can take you. How you face this path is what is the most important thing in developing great players. Joanne Peters example seems a fine model as to how to meet those challenges head on, and more importantly overcome them.

SOCCER CANBERRA TO GET NEW HOME GROUND

Soccer Canberra's long-running quest for a home of their own may be coming to an end.

Chief executive Alan Lee said he expected to make a major announcement on the future directions of the code in the national capital within the next couple of weeks and according to sources that will mean the successful conclusion of negotiations with the ACT Government over a 20-year lease on Hawker Oval in the north of the city.

The deal will give Soccer Canberra exclusive use of the enclosed ground, which it currently shares with rugby union and league.

Hawker, established in the 1970s, is one of the better-equipped stadiums currently under government control. It has been the venue for ACT Premiership grand finals, representative games, even NSL fixtures for a brief period in the mid-1980s. The problem for soccer has always been the rapid deterioration of the playing surface after use by the rugby codes, especially during wet winters.

Should Soccer Canberra be successful in their bid, one of the first improvements will be the installation of lights. This will have to be in consultation with nearby residents, but the source said he believed the objections could be overcome.

Further down the track will come a new grandstand and changing rooms, and offices and meeting rooms to take the load from the heavily utilised space at Football House in the suburb of Deakin.

The source said Hawker Oval would be the new home ground and training area for the ACT Academy in the National Youth League, moving it away from



Alan Lee: Chief Executive of Soccer Canberra will make a major announcement on future directions for the code in the next few weeks.

expensive rented accommodation at the Australian Institute of Sport. It is possible the Canberra Eclipse Women's National League side may wish to play there.

"I would also expect to see representative games, finals and probably a Premiership match of the round there," he said.

The move will give the Canberra area a strong list of grounds dedicated to soccer: Hawker, Riverside in Queanbeyan used mostly by Monaro, McKellar, soon to be the home pitch of Belconnen Blue Devils, and Deakin, played on by Canberra Deakin.

In addition, the government-run Kaleen Oval and Woden Park are not used by any other winter code.

STALLIONS STAVE OFF BLUES

By Bert van Bedaf

Victorian Premier League top-five side Fawcner Blues reckoned it had the game won in the final minute but had to be content with a 2-2 draw away to Whittlesea Stallions at Epping stadium last Friday night.

Game finished in controversy as the Blues scored what would have been the winning goal only to have it disallowed in a moment of confusion between referee Cain Naumceski and his linesman.

The eventual decision proved to be the correct one, but the circumstances injected some heartbreak into what was an entertaining contest on a cool night.

On the stroke of 90 minutes, Fawcner's Craig Murphy and Whittlesea defender Arthur Tsonis challenged for the ball 30 metres out near the sideline on the left flank. A collision took place.

The ball bounced forward to Santo Emmanuele wide on the left and the linesman raised his flag. Naumceski indicated play on. The linesman lowered his flag and Emmanuele crossed to substitute Henry Fa'arodo who scored with an unmarked tap-in right in front of goal.

The linesman alerted Naumceski, who went across and after consultation disallowed the goal for offside. Apparently, while the linesman flagged for offside (by Emmanuele), the referee thought the flag was for a foul as a result of the collision. Since the advantage went to Fawcner, Naumceski waved to play on. The linesman lowered his flag, but convinced of the offside he decided to seek further consultation, leaving the final score at 2-2 as a result.

Fawcner coach Joe Biskie was not impressed.

"Obviously there was a tackle and I thought there was going to be a free kick for us. But the referee pointed to play on and that's what we did. The

linesman put the flag down and we scored a beautiful goal.

"Suddenly the referee goes over to the linesman and asks him a question and the linesman said it was offside and the referee disallowed the goal.

"It's ridiculous. I would understand if he (referee) didn't see the linesman. But he saw the linesman and said to play on. Afterwards he went to the linesman to ask him questions and disallowed the goal.

"I could not believe it. It ruined everything for us. I've never seen anything like that. It was very disappointing. I never try to criticise the referee. But this was some decision. I've never seen something like this," he said.

Whittlesea coach Phil Stubbins said he never doubted the decision.

"It was 100 per cent offside. There were two players going for the ball.

A collision happened and the referee interpreted it as a foul for Fawcner, but he's played on, while the linesman has put his flag up for offside," Stubbins said.

"The goal's been scored and after consultation with the linesman he's disallowed it. I was very confident the goal would be disallowed for offside. In my opinion it was a definite offside," he



Vas Kalogeracos: Stallions Striker scored a brace that gifted Whittlesea a vital point.

said.

The Stallions also had their chance to clinch the game, but captain Joe Montagnese had his penalty blocked just before half time.

Before the much talked-about finish, the game, played on a slippery surface, provided two goals in each half. The eventual draw was a fair result.

"It would have been cruel to have lost the game in that way. It was a good game and a good spectacle," Stubbins said.

Biskie wasn't as pleased, believing victory was there for the taking.

The Stallions took the lead and Fawcner came back to go a goal up before Stallions top marksman Vas Kalogeracos headed home his second goal of the night to equalise.

"It was an exciting game. I thought we controlled the first half, even though they (Whittlesea) scored first. We scored two great goals," Biskie said.

"We had a few more chances, but in the end, overall I was pleased with the way we played. I was happy with the performance. We played good soccer at times. We came back after 1-0 down and we played quite well to win the game, but I'm not happy with the point.

"The penalty was pretty soft and the keeper (Steven Tilovski) kept us in the game. I didn't worry, because I was confident that we would come back and at the end we could have won the game. But you can't do much about that (decision)," he said.

The Blues created the early chances but the Stallions jumped in the lead on 22 minutes. Mario Jurjevic provided the cross that Kalogeracos put away with a clear-cut header.

Minutes later Jurjevic had to be substituted with Jim Drossos after pulling his hamstring.

Whittlesea also included Raheem Mousaroy for the first time. The central defender transferred from Port Melbourne during the week.

A magical moment by Tony Sterjovski got Fawcner level after 30 minutes.

Mullen departs Bulleen

By Bert van Bedaf

Bulleen coach Joe Mullen parted company with the Zebras after his side lost 5-2 to the Port Melbourne Sharks last Saturday night.

Bulleen reacted quickly by appointing Peter Ollerton, who previously coached title defender Heidelberg United. Mullen is the fourth coach to bite the dust in the Victorian Premier League.

Doug Hodgson was the first casualty at Preston. Ollerton followed in quick succession at the Bergers. Dragan Blazekski left Fitzroy City about a month ago. Hodgson was appointed in his place. Port Melbourne has been the downfall of three coaches so far this season. Hodgson, Ollerton and Mullen were Sharks victims after losses.

The gifted player accepted a forward ball with his right foot and whipped in a stinging, left-foot volley that slammed into the top far corner with the velocity of a sniper's bullet.

Scores looked to stay even at halftime before Sterjovski brought down Kalogeracos inside the area. Montagnese, who scored from the spot before, took his run but Tilovski guessed right and parried the captain's shot, diving to his right to keep the game level at the break.

The game seemed at set and match when Ante Deak lobbed Stallions keeper Robert Acteson on the hour. A clever through-pass by Joe Spiteri reached Deak, who spotted

Acteson off his line and quickly chipped the ball into the net from outside the box.

But the indomitable Stallions struck back through the incomparable Kalogeracos ten minutes later.

A cross from the left reached the striker at the far post, where he put his life on the line as he headed the ball through a scramble into the net at an acute angle.

It was the last strike before Solomon Islands talent Fa'arodo drilled home his disallowed goal. In the end, the draw proved a fair conclusion to a stirring encounter. Pity that only a small crowd of about 600 went to game to watch it.

Spectators complained the Victorian Soccer Federation wasn't doing enough to promote the game. Stallions president Sam Cuteri said next season he planned to schedule matches for Monday nights rather than on Friday nights to attract bigger crowds.



Joe Mullen: Former Adelaide City great parted company with Bulleen.

Devils President Responds

"Thomastown Devils is now a sister club to South Melbourne. Thomastown has contracted

MVP management to revamp our senior, reserve, under 18s and juniors teams. MVP in conjunction with South Melbourne have provided Thomastown with new coaching staff to coach our senior, reserve and under 18s.

"MVP director George Christopolous has not taken over Thomastown Devils.

Thomastown will play a further two games at Bob Jane stadium, four games at Epping stadium and two games at Padrig reserve.

"There were casualties at Thomastown with the appointment of head coach Jeff Olver. There is no point in keeping dead wood at the club. We lost two games with the original team. You did not have to be a genius to work out we were heading for division 2 next season.

"We did take on South Melbourne youth players to the squad. There has been a big difference in our performance since the change.

"The (Thomastown) club will not disappear during summer. The club has always been at rest during summer. We are a winter club. Our competition is held during winter. The players will participate in a summer competition, if available. There will be a pre-season for them for the winter competition.

"Our name will not change. If we are promoted (to VPL), I would like to go with the original name of TEL (Thomastown, Epping, Lator). Our club heritage will not go while I am president. Our club colours will not change while I am president.

"I came to Thomastown to try and rebuild the club from scratch. I was floored with plenty of helpers at the beginning of my term. I had a junior committee, a social committee and an executive.

"Within weeks internal problems arose,

committee members were fighting with one another, while the club was suffering financially. These people were worried about themselves.

"Within weeks the Vice-President wanted to sell the club to another club (seniors only). It was knocked back. The club was too good to sell.

"The Vice-President resigned. Most of the committee people followed him.

I begged him to stay and help me. He refused. I and others were left to run the sinking ship. I had to do something quick smart. I had a meeting with South Melbourne officials and we came up with the said proposal.

"What better proposal can a club ever receive. Fresh strong players replacing old and unskilful ones. A youth development program that beats any program in Melbourne. All senior, reserves and under 18s fully financed by MVP and South Melbourne. Having a solicitor, accountant and a business development manager added to our board. Being able to pay all our debts by the AGM at the end of the current season.

"Thomastown will be one of the best junior development clubs in the northern area. It will be striving for premier league status without changing the club structure and heritage.

"Have I sold the club? No. All I did was save the club and provide all juniors with a future in the game, create professionalism and enthusiasm at the club, create interest at the club and awareness of soccer in the area.

"If the previous Vice-President got his way all of the above would have disappeared. As president my job is to preserve the club, promote the club, provide the best for the club and not to sell the club. For the next five years I have concreted the club to success," Dimasi said.

Lions make life hell for Saints

PRESTON Lions smashed five goals past St Albans for their biggest win of the season, beating the hapless Saints 5-0 on their own turf. It was 4-0 at half time.

Ivan Filipovski, who returned to Preston from Fitzroy City a fortnight ago, scored twice. Ivan Kozic, Samy Farest and John Sapazovski scored a goal each. Sapazovski accounted for the only goal after the break.

This was a great result for us," a jubilant Preston coach Vlade Torteviski said afterwards. The win has put Preston further towards the top five, causing Torteviski to seriously consider a finals position halfway into the Victorian Premier League season.

Under Torteviski the Lions lost twice, drew

three and won three games for 12 points. They picked up three points under Doug Hodgson, who left after two rounds. Captain Chris Emsovski was acting coach in round three, a 1-0 away loss to Bentleigh Greens.

"We continue to show good form and we are getting closer (to the top five)," Torteviski said.

"I hope we can continue for the rest of the season. If we pick up a few more wins at home, maybe we can start thinking of a top five position," he said.

In round 12, the Lions are on the road again, visiting Altona East on Sunday, 3pm. They are back at BT Connor Reserve on the following Sunday for the first home game since round 10.

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE STATS

ROUND 11 RESULTS

FRIDAY, MAY 3 - 8:15PM

Whittlesea Stallions SC 2 Fawcner Blues SC 2
(V.Kalogeracos (2)) (A.Deak, T.Sterjovski)

SATURDAY, MAY 4 - 7:00PM

Port Melbourne Sharks SC 5 Bulleen Zebras SC 2
(J.Knezevic, C.Pino, P.Psarros, (D.Gnjidic, J.Di Iorio)
S.Poutakidis, G.Hinoporo)

SUNDAY, MAY 5 - 3:00PM

St Albans Saints SC 0 Preston Lions SC 5
(J.Kozic, S. Faris Daoud, I.Filipovski (2), J.Sapazovski 2

ROUND 12 FIXTURES

FRIDAY, MAY 10 - 8:15PM

Fitzroy City SC vs. Fawcner Blues SC
Whittlesea Stallions SC vs. Bulleen Zebras SC

SUNDAY, MAY 12 - 3:00 PM

Altona East Phoenix SC vs. Preston Lions SC
St Albans Saints SC vs. Bentleigh Greens SC
Port Melbourne Sharks SC vs. Green Gully Cavaliers SC
Heidelberg United SC vs. Altona Magic SC

2002 PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
1. Green Gully Cavaliers SC	10	6	3	1	12	3	21
2. Bentleigh Greens SC	10	5	5	0	17	10	20
3. Fawcner Blues SC	11	5	4	2	19	14	19
4. Port Melbourne Sharks SC	11	5	3	3	25	19	18
5. Altona East Phoenix SC	10	4	4	2	13	11	16
6. Preston Lions SC	11	4	3	4	17	13	15
7. Whittlesea Stallions SC	11	3	6	2	16	18	15
8. St Albans Saints SC	11	3	2	6	7	17	11
9. Altona Magic SC	10	2	3	5	15	14	9
10. Fitzroy City SC	10	2	3	5	8	12	9
11. Heidelberg United SC	10	2	3	5	17	27	9
12. Bulleen Zebras SC	11	1	3	7	13	21	6

PARRAMATTA POWER CROWNED THE KINGS OF AUSTRALIAN YOUTH FOOTBALL

By Stuart Jones

PARRAMATTA POWER . . . 2 MELBOURNE KNIGHTS . . 0

Parramatta Power defeated the National Youth League's defending Premiers - the Melbourne Knights - 2-0 to take out the national youth league for 2002. Goals from Peter Gavaghan and Adam Kwasnik reflected the dominance Power showed in this match at Marconi Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

A crowd of 500 was on hand to watch the trophy handed over to Power captain Michael Brown by national coach Frank Farina. It was also good to see a large amount of representation from Soccer Australia

for this match.

After forty-five minutes the match was goalless but not from lack of trying, mostly on the Parramatta front. The Knights started with one striker up front and tried to attack quickly on the counter. When they did this they did fairly well with lone striker Serkan Oksuz doing amazingly well by himself with his speed and strength causing the Power defenders some consternation.

Parramatta had much room in mid-field and it was from there that the likes of Bradley Groves engineered the Power's attacking raids. In the tenth minute Kwasnik came close to converting a corner but the ball ballooned over the bar. At the back the Knights were swarming in defence and it meant Parramatta failed to take full advantage of their possession.

In the 40th minute a Brown free

kick was headed by Kwasnik at the near post and it looked to be Power's opening goal but the ball went just wide. Then a minute later Kwasnik was on the edge of the area and instead of shooting showed much maturity in playing it to Brett Holman on the penalty spot. Unfortunately Holman's shot went over the bar. Then in injury time Kwasnik seemed to be felled in the area but referee Peter Apostolou waved play on.

A double substitution at halftime

worked wonders for Power as Peter Gavaghan was introduced up front and Blake Oliver down the left hand side. Within 60 seconds of the restart Power had taken the lead. Brett Holman played it past the defence on the right and then played it through to Gavaghan. Whilst half the defence stopped for an offside calls the others could not get close to the ball and Gavaghan had time to slot the ball past the Knights keeper Adam Hrehoresin on the near side. Parramatta were finally rewarded for their strong play with a goal.

The Knights tried to come back but the defence was showing much more confusion than they did in the first stanza. In the 56th minute Gavaghan pushed the ball wide of the post after it had spilled free in the Knights defensive area. Then a minute later he was just a step away from being able to shoot after quality one-two with Brett Holman.

As if things were not bad enough for the Knights Blake Oliver then started making attacking runs down the left and one of these saw Brett Holman swivel onto one of Oliver's passes but the ball went wide of the mark. Actually for this period the Knights were just getting there in time to stop Parramatta putting quality shots on goal and this could have been a source of frustration for the Power youngsters. Instead they continued to go forward and look for a further goal. In the 71st minute Gavaghan failed to convert another good chance but finally a minute later the scoreline was doubled for the Sydney team.

This second goal was a quality goal, which would have stood out even at NSL level. Bradley Groves played the ball into area to Gavaghan who nearly lost it three times but with



Power players celebrate being crowned National Youth League Champions after their 2-0 victory over the Melbourne Knights.

sheer tenacity kept it despite three defenders begin around him. That swarming defence meant he could not shoot despite being close to goal so instead he played it to Brett Holman who was free on the right. Holman picked the ball up and chipped it across to the far post for Adam Kwasnik to head home.

Brett Holman then had a shot cleared off the line before Serkan Oksuz of the Knights almost got his side back in the game. He was played through by Serkan Doganay but he seemed to be in two minds as what to do and had a half shot/half pass well saved by Andrew Carmen in the Parramatta goal.

In the 82nd minute Pedge Bojic showed his skills in a marauding run down the right before crossing it to Brett Holman whose shot was cleared off the line. By now the Knights had three men forward and were causing a few more problems. They were mainly once more from the foot of Serkan Oksuz but his shots were just

not going on target.

Right on fulltime Power seemed to step up a gear and Gavaghan had two great opportunities, including the last shot of the game. Oliver played the ball over from the left and Gavaghan was three yards out in front of the goal and with no one between him and the line. He managed some how to hit it over the bar when it was harder to miss than score. In the end it did not matter and his role had been vital in securing the victory.

Outstanding for Parramatta were Bradley Groves, Michael Brown, Brett Holman and Pedge Bojic as well as substitutes Blake Oliver and Peter Gavaghan. For the Knights Serkan Oksuz and Lester McEvoy played very well. Coach Trevor Morgan was ecstatic with the display; "I thought it was a well deserved win for the lads, we had better players all over the park and we were rewarded for our attacking style of play."

The Knights had to overcome three months of non playing and the

fact that they could not play all of their most talented youth players (they spread their youth across the youth and colts side so they are equally as strong). The youngster up front is only 15 years of age (Serkan Oksuz) and actually made his youth league debut as a 13 year old. There will surely be big wraps on his game should he continue develop as well as he has so far.

Overall though it was a Parramatta Youth display that could grace the field of many NSL matches. The players showed maturity and patience. For some, now ex-members of staff this match was the final installment of the hard work they have put in over three years and the boys display must have left them feeling very proud. Congratulations must go to a fine youth team, Parramatta Power National Youth League champions of 2002.



Knights Serkan Doganay in full stride against Power's goalscorer Peter Gavaghan.



Power's Blake Oliver in action against the Knights.

SOCCER WOMAN WITH JANENE MAR

AUSTRALIA QUALIFIES FOR U19 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Australia celebrated history on Friday when it became one of the twelve nations to compete at the inaugural FIFA U19 Women's World Championship.

The Youth Team has followed in the footsteps of its senior counterparts, the Matildas, in winning through to take their place amongst the very best countries in world football and perform on the very top stage.

Going into these Qualifiers, obviously the first event in this age group and also quite a few years since we played old foes New Zealand at youth level, there was always an element of doubt and caution of whether we could defeat the passionate Kiwis in a one-off final. But the emphatic style in which Australia cast aside the measly challenge New Zealand put up with so much at stake, it just goes to show how far ahead we have moved (and probably also how far backwards NZ have gone).

But let's not get too carried away. The campaign has really only just begun. It will be damn tough at Canada 2002 against the likes of the USA, Canada, and whichever four of the Europeans qualify.

Congratulations to the Young Matildas on their success so far, and hopefully they will enjoy a good preparation going into the first U19 World Championship in August.

AUSTRALIA NUMBER SIX

The FIFA U19 Women's World Championship will be held in Canada, 17 August to 1 September this year.

Australia is the sixth nation to book its

passage to Canada 2002 so far, joining hosts Canada, South American champion Brazil, African champion Nigeria, and Asia's top pair Japan and Chinese Taipei.

Brazil was the standout in their region, although only had to play a two-leg playoff to qualify. The original Qualifying Tournament was cancelled after two different host nations withdrew, and Peru was the only country to put up its hand to play off for the single berth. Brazil went on to win both the home and away match by a margin of 6-0. Nigeria also emerged the clear champion of Africa after beating South Africa 6-0 and 3-2 in their two-leg final. Africa started its qualifying rounds back in August, and after several withdrawals along the way, nine countries competed.

Chinese Taipei was the surprise qualifier from Asia's recent U19 Championship, and Canada 2002 will be the country's first appearance in a FIFA event since the 1991 World Cup. The bigger shock is that they bumped out China, the recent superpower missing out on its first such event ever. Japan maintains their solid record of competing with the best.

AUSTRALIA FAR TOO GOOD FOR KIWIS

FINAL - AUSTRALIA 6 (Caitlin Muñoz 30m, 70m, Collette McCallum 36m, Hayley Crawford 56m, Emma Davison 61m, 78m) defeated NEW ZEALAND 0
Third-Place Playoff - TONGA 2 defeated SAMOA 0.

The Young Matildas dominated rivals New Zealand to win Friday's final of the Oceania U19 Qualifiers in Tonga by a comfortable six unanswered goals.

In windy conditions, the Young Matildas took the half-hour to settle their nerves with the opening goal, and went in at the break with a two-goal lead after taking twelve shots to New Zealand's one. Australia lifted again in the second half against an opponent who battled hard but in the end could not match the Young Matildas' athleticism, skill, and fierce attacking prowess.

Midfielder Caitlin Muñoz opened Australia's account with a well-crafted strike from 20 metres. Six minutes later, Collette McCallum's power drive from 25 metres gave the keeper no chance and put the Kiwis in a catch-up situation from which they did not look like recovering.

Early in the second half, striker Hayley Crawford effectively sealed the match with a magical goal from a touch, turn, and chip over the goalkeeper. Emma Davison punished New Zealand further five minutes later, arriving at speed to neatly finish a cross from the hardworking Lana Harch. Muñoz again judged her shot superbly with a lob over the keeper for Australia's fifth goal, and Davison did likewise for her second.

New Zealand did come very close to scoring on a couple of occasions, but Australia's Harch headed one such attempt off the goal-line. Australian goalkeeper Lisa Hartley then displayed an amazing effort by sprinting ten metres back to kick a certain goal off the line with millimetres to spare.

National Youth Coach Mike Mulvey was excited and enthusiastic about the team's big win and the prospects for the finals in Canada, saying, "Today the players proved they are worthy ambassadors for Australia and will now carry the flag to the first women's youth world cup as deserved Oceania champions. This was a complete performance and the girls excelled in a big game. We now look forward to preparing for a great challenge in Canada."

AUSTRALIA - Hartley, McShea, Reuter, Slatyer, McCallum, Muñoz, Davison, Stocco (Neilson 73), Harch, Crawford (Canham 81), Kuralay (Cannuli 65).

YOUNG MATILDAS UNTESTED IN SEMI

AUSTRALIA 13 (Emma Davison 2m, Collette McCallum 3m, Hayley Crawford 11m, 14m, 42m, Lana Harch 19m, Selin Kuralay 37m, 58m, 64m, 70m, 84m, Catherine Cannuli 74m, Katie Gill 77m) defeated SAMOA 0
NEW ZEALAND 15 defeated TONGA 0

The Young Matildas and New Zealand set up a clash in the final to decide Oceania's single representative at the inaugural FIFA U19 Women's World Championship after the Australians posted an emphatic 13-0 victory over Samoa in their semifinal on Wednesday evening.

In wet and slippery conditions, the Young Matildas maintained control throughout the match. Midfielders Emma Davison and Collette McCallum opened Australia's account with a goal each inside the first three minutes. Forward Hayley Crawford then set about scoring a hat-trick before the half-time break. Selin Kuralay, playing up front and then in midfield, stole the show with a stunning performance - a record haul of five goals, plus the creator of many more opportunities for her teammates.

Amongst Australia's constant peppering of shots and corner kicks on the opposition goal, Samoa briefly ventured into attack in the second half, Australian goalkeeper Lisa Hartley called upon to make a smart save.

In the earlier semifinal, New Zealand sounded a clear warning to their trans-Tasman rivals by thumping 15 goals past

hosts Tonga, the Kiwis' biggest scoreline for the tournament, and more than Australia's 11-goal win over the same team.

National Youth Coach Mike Mulvey was satisfied with the display leading into the crucial decider, saying "Tonight's performance was very pleasing. Several players really stood up to be counted and have given me a couple of tough decisions to make before naming the team for Friday's final."

Australia - Hartley, McShea, Reuter, Slatyer (Cannuli 46), McCallum, Muñoz, Davison (Neilson 46), Stocco, Harch, Crawford (Gill 72), Kuralay.

YOUNG MATILDAS TOP SCORERS Oceania U19 Qualifiers, Tonga

	Goals
Selin Kuralay	9
Emma Davison	5
Hayley Crawford	5
Catherine Cannuli	5
Collette McCallum	4



Lisa Hartley: Young Matilda's exciting goalkeeper.



WC STADIUMS 2002 PART B



6. Kobe Wing Stadium, Japan

Kobe is home to one of the world's leading international trade ports. Its history is full of maritime activities. As far back as the eighth century it has a port, then known as Owada Anchorage.

It was not until 1868 that the town, in the shadows of Mount Rokko, opened itself to the outside world and began trading with the West and today is the western nucleus of the Hanshin economic block and eastern nucleus of the Seto Inland Sea economic area.

In 1868 Kobe had a population of 134,000 and by 1939 this had blown out to over 1 million. Kobe saw much destruction during WWII and by the end of hostilities the population was 380,000. Today Kobe has a population of 1.5 million. Kobe is a town full of contrasts with settlements throughout the ages represented in quarters throughout the city, including old western style houses in Kitano. Kobe is about three hours from Tokyo on the bullet train. Combine those two cities with Kyoto and they form the economic focal point of Kansai.

Some of the attractions around Kobe include the town of Nara which is famous nationwide for sake brewing, while Mount Rokko and Arima Hot Spring are popular. 30-minutes westward of the city centre is the Tarumi-Maiko Coast, which commands superb views of the scenic Suma Beach and

the Akashi Kaikyo Bridge (total length: 3,911 metres), the world's longest suspension bridge.

Although Kobe was seriously damaged by the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 17 January 1995, restoration has progressed rapidly. In remembrance of that catastrophic event, the Kobe Port Earthquake Memorial Park, as well as other facilities, have been erected.

Kobe citizens enjoy sports in world-class facilities. In 1985, the Universiade Athletic Games - a student Olympics - were held in Kobe, in which more than 4,000 athletes from all over the world participated. Kobe then declared itself an International Sport City, and has since strived to promote sport.

The Universiade Commemoration Athletic Field had been the home of the J-League football team Vissel Kobe since 1995. Kobe Wing Stadium, a new 42,000 capacity football stadium is now their home ground. Kobe Wing Stadium was so named to conjure up the imagery of wings rising from the ground after the 1995 earthquake. The wing symbol can be seen from the north and south of the new stadium.

After the World Cup is over, this stadium will be remodelled and reborn as a stadium with accommodation for 34,000 spectators and include open-and-close roofs, and an

air-conditioner equipped to reach every seat. The remodelling will also include a new hot-water pool, a gymnasium and a panoramic restaurant, providing a sports community park where many people can enjoy a variety of activities. It will also play the role of a local disaster-protective site in case of an emergency.

The Stadium itself is located 5 kms from the city centre or a five minute walk from Misaka Park Station.

STADIUM INFORMATION:

Construction site: Inside of Misaki Park at 1-chome, Misaki-cho,

Hyogo-ku, Kobe

Construction area: About

31,700m²

Total floor area: About 58,700 m²

Number of stories: Seven stories

above ground

Height: About 45m

Field: 75m x 130m, evergreen

natural turf

Capacity: About 42,000 people

during the World Cup



Wollongong News

By Otto Bader

ILLAWARRA SOCCER ROUND-UP

Philosophy of Soccer Part 3 - The Football World Cup in South Korea and Japan will be a Television bonanza, which unfortunately is not recognised by some Australian commercial stations, with producers ignorant to the pulling power of the event. Soccer enthusiasts will enjoy the real football.

While the NSL is struggling to restructure the new competition format to kick-off in October, a critical view should be focused on the season just completed. The lack of acknowledgment by the general sports fans in Australia is a fact, which cannot be denied. Attendance figures do not stand up to other Australian codes.

One would like Soccer Australia to create a positive image, instead of the negativity shown in all ways over a number of years. There must be a solution to lift our game-first played in our country around 1883 and not making much of an impression with local media moguls.

Knowing Illawarra Soccer, why can't the Wolves fill seats at home games? In past years, thousands supported the known South Coast United at Balls Paddock, up to 8000 (35,000 at the old Sydney Sports Ground), playing at poor facilities. The answer lies in a strong bond with local sport. Local players made up team squads in those days. Some of them are still involved in today's Illawarra soccer but rarely consulted by the Wolves management even though they would volunteer their services free of charge most likely. It is all a matter of knowing local soccer politics and winning over their support. The present Wolves hierarchy is not at all conversant with local soccer people.

It hurts to note that the Wolves from their inaugural start under coach Ken Morton (completely unknown then to any local) in the early 1980 have never until today made an effort to see, to talk, to communicate with Illawarra senior or junior soccer clubs. Most Wolves officials in charge of running the show are foreigners to most locals; they have not contacted any clubs or invited them to get to know each other. Their coaching staff has not been sighted at local matches to perhaps spot a promising prospect. The only Wolves players known to the grass-root of soccer here were Scott Chipperfield and Matthew Horsley who cultivated relations with local soccer, both grew up in Illawarra but that is not the only reason for their popularity.

Now is the time for the Wolves to invest some efforts to lift their profile with the locals, compete for their attention - assure their support.

The aim is to fill WIN Stadium. Thus

one must be popular which at the moment the Wolves are not at all with the public in Illawarra.

Even if some high profile officials are denying all the above, you can believe yours truly the feeling among Wollongong's general soccer is not as it should be for a successful prosperous Wolves club. A complete change of direction in promotion is required to fill the empty seats. It can be done - think a little how the hundreds of individual soccer club committee volunteers invest if only the Wolves asked! Change attitudes - talk to others, light the flame of passion for the Wolves again, be creative, go ahead optimistic, you have got nothing to lose. Do not neglect relationships with the paying public. We all wish for better soccer seasons to come.

Youth Team Reached Final - the Wolves talented youngsters had a great season, 2nd place on the competition table, playing in the Grand Final. Even though they lost to Parramatta Power, they have done their club proud. Plenty of Sydney coaches and even overseas agents observed the young talent on show - a pity the Wolves head coach could not make it! Youth grade coach Eddie Tesoro is giving the boys a rest now for about 6 weeks before he will assemble them for preparations to tackle another soccer season. This year's squad had 9 Illawarra - bred youngsters with more to join from the juniors.

Eddie won't be idle either, he intends to visit local games, mainly to observe Youth Grade players in Premier League and to better get to know the locals. It's a start in the right direction.

Regarding Eddie's ESA program scheduled for end of May please contact him for details on mobile 0407 791 346.

Illawarra Soccer

ICU Premier League review after round

1 - Lysaght leading the competition, going well on 12 points, looking strong.

Kembla on 9 points, 2nd spot on 9 points, should stay close.

Port Kembla on 7 points in 3rd place, slowly improving.

Picton Rangers on 7 points, 4th, the surprise package so far.

Coniston Lions on 7 points also, 5th, solid contender.

Olympic on 6 points, 6th, competing, finding it tough.

Bulli on 5 points, 7th spot, not going that well as expected.

Kiama on 4 points, 8th, doing OK for newcomer.

Cringila on 4 points also, 9th, will go higher up soon.

Balgownie Rangers 3 points, 10th, only one win, needs to do better.

West Illawarra on 3 points, 11th, not quite expected to be down so far.

Tarrawanna on 1 point, 12th and last,

with only one draw, not enough to survive.

Highlights - a hat-trick by Jason Kencevski (Kembla) in this round = surprise win by Picton at Coniston and West over Bulli = Balgownie signed ageing Soccerroo Marshal Soper = send-offs Chris



Wolves Youth Coach Eddie Tesoro consoles his players after their loss to Parramatta Power in the Northern Conference Youth League Final.

Georgievski (West), Steve Baz (Cringila) and Paul McGarry (Olympic) = strong performances Lysaght 3-0 and Kembla 4-0.

ICU Conference League round 4 -

Leading teams are Albion Park WE, Berkeley, Dapto all on 10 points, followed by Highlands, Woonona, University all on 7 points plus two Warilla Wanderers and South Coast United on 6 points - making up at the moment the top 8 sides. Changes in positions are expected in the next few rounds.

Bampton Cup - second round =

With the quarterfinals not until July, only two Conference League teams are left - Dapto and Shellharbour City together with 6 Premier League sides - Lysaght, Coniston, West, Port, Kembla, Cringila. It is unlikely the lower division sides will be drawn together, they surely will battle next a Premier League team. Shellharbour City coach Barney King is looking forward to play one of the top sides after his team revenged a first round controversial loss by beating Highlands 3:1 in the Cup challenge. City will unveil their new strip at the next home fixture against competition leaders Albion Park WE. The set of newly designed strips was made and donated by MM Sports Warehouse, Warilla. Sponsors and dignitaries will be invited to the occasion.

Junior Soccer now on Internet www.illawarrajuniorsoccer.asn.au for all results and tables in all age groups, please take note of it.

Soccer Around the South Coast

W/E Results. 4-5 May, 2002

ICU Premier League Round 4 - Kiama 1

Bulli 1 a terrific result for the newly promoted side.

Picton Rangers 1 Lysaght 1 the first point dropped by the visitors.

West 2 Balgownie 0 good to see the host coming good, danger for Bully.

Tarrawanna 3 Kembla 0 not the expected result, great for the host.

Olympic 3 Cringila 3 a tough outcome for both, no progress as yet.

Sunday Match of the Day Port Kembla - Coniston. 2-2 a just result.

ICU Conference League - Albion Park

IWE 6 South Coast 2 the favourite marches on regardless, hard to stop with the youngest coach in Illawarra Steve Micevski. Bellambi 5 Shoalhaven City results are coming for the host, disappointing for the boys from Shoalhaven playing in higher grade last year.

Berkeley 4 Shellharbour City 1 the results flatters the host, good game bad result for the visitors going well with score 1:1 late in the game.

Dapto 5 Barbarians 1 clear outcome for the host, doing really well.

Fernhill 2 Northern United 1 valuable points for the host.

Helensburgh 2 Highlands 1 close result as expected.

Woonona 2 Warilla Wanderers 4 the visitors coming good after some poor form shown previously.

Ruse v University result 0-5, visitors too strong.

SOCCER DATES NEXT

ROUND 6 W/E

11/5/02

ICU Premier League =

Balgownie v Kiama

Bulli v Picton Rangers

Lysaght v Port Kembla

Coniston v Wollongong

Olympic

Kembla v West Illawarra

Cringila v Tarrawanna

ICU CONFERENCE

LEAGUE =

Shellharbour City v Albion

Park WE

Barbarians v Bellambi

Northern United v Berkeley

Highlands v Dapto

Helensburgh v Fernhill

Shoalhaven City v Ruse

South Coast United v Woonona

University v Warilla

Wanderers.

ACT PREMIERSHIP IN FULL SWING

By Graham Cooke

The frustration showed on coach Ian Heywood's face after his Gungahlin Juventus had twice let a lead slip in the 2-2 ACT Premiership draw with Canberra Olympic on Sunday.

"This is the second time we have drawn 2-2 this season," he said. "In a tight competition it's asking a great deal of the strikers to score three times in a game in order to get a result."

"We know that as the reigning premier everyone is going to raise their game a notch higher when they play us. Olympic are probably very happy with this result, while we're going away desperately disappointed."

The draw left Juventus still struggling to find last season's sparkling form with just one win in the opening four matches. Olympic, on the other hand, will take heart from their performance, after twice trailing and twice hitting back within minutes.

The game revolved around two pieces of intense action in each half. In the 30th minute Juventus midfielder John Glass cracked in a shot from beyond the penalty area that beat goalkeeper David Collins and finished up in the far corner of the net.

Within seconds of the restart Juventus defenders failed to mark Elia Salloum who headed in from close range.

In the 82nd minute Steve Lazzari made amends for a quiet game when he coolly touched the ball into an empty net after Collins had saved his first shot. This time it took Olympic two minutes to get back on terms, Elliot Zwagobani laying on a pass for Marcelo Fernandez to score.

Elsewhere, Juventus had slightly the better of a generally lackluster game, Robbie Schroder working hard for little

reward, but a clumsy tackle by Oscar Zamora on Trent Flanagan, perilously close to the penalty area, could have cost Juventus the game, fortunately for them Fernandez blasted the free kick well wide.

Veteran coach Vic Fernandez, back with Olympic for a third spell, said the team were showing signs of recovering from a terrible opening to the season.

"We have lost seven players from last year's squad but with Toplica Popovich and Elliott Zwagobani back after the summer with the Blue Devils, we began to look quite good in patches," he said.

"I feel now that we can go on from here, and that we won't finish bottom of the table, which was my fear at the beginning of the season."

In other games Canberra Deakin and Monaro maintained their dominance at the top of the table with wins. However, Deakin had to struggle to ease past Belconnen United with two late goals scored by striker Zvonko Ughalburka and David Arranz, in his first game for the club after returning from the Belconnen Blue Devils.

United coach Oscar Langone said he was bitterly disappointed his team did not take at least a point. "Deakin's goalkeeper, Angelo Konstantino, was in unbeatable form," he said.

Monaro beat Tuggeranong United 2-1. Danny Macor and former United player Carl Pideski were the scorers.

And Capital City Suns kept Weston Creek Royals pointless this season with a 6-1 win, goals coming from Ilija Prenzovski (2), Tony Alexovski, Ty Tran, Tony Kocak and Goran Josifovski. Justin Webb was Royals' single scorer.

Suns coach Bill Dojcinovski said his team needed this first win of the season to strengthen their confidence for next week's game against table-leading Deakin.

ACT PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Deakin	3	3	0	0	14	0	9
Monaro	3	3	0	0	11	2	9
Belconnen United	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Tuggeranong United	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Capital City Suns	4	1	2	1	9	5	5
Gungahlin Juventus	4	1	2	1	8	9	5
Canberra Olympic	4	0	2	2	4	14	2
Weston Creek Royals	4	0	0	4	2	18	0



WC STADIUMS 2002 PART B



7. Daegu Main Stadium, South Korea

Daegu hosted two matches in the recent Confederations Cup one of which was the Australia France clash. Australian fans will remember that the atmosphere was great despite the fact that the Koreans did not have their own team participating. After the World Cup (in 2003) Daegu will host the Universiad Games and the stadium will be turned into a multi cultural centre.

The brand-new Daegu Main Stadium was inaugurated on the 20th May 2001 with a game between Santos of Brazil and Ilwha of Seongnam, with almost 70,000 tickets distributed free of charge nationwide. Daegu Main Stadium took just under four years to complete, and is located in the Suseonggu district on a site of approximately 515,000m². Of the 66,040 seats, 74 per-cent are covered by a Teflon coating roof membrane that lets through natural light. The design of the roof recalls the beautiful curves of a traditional Korean house with a straw-thatched roof.

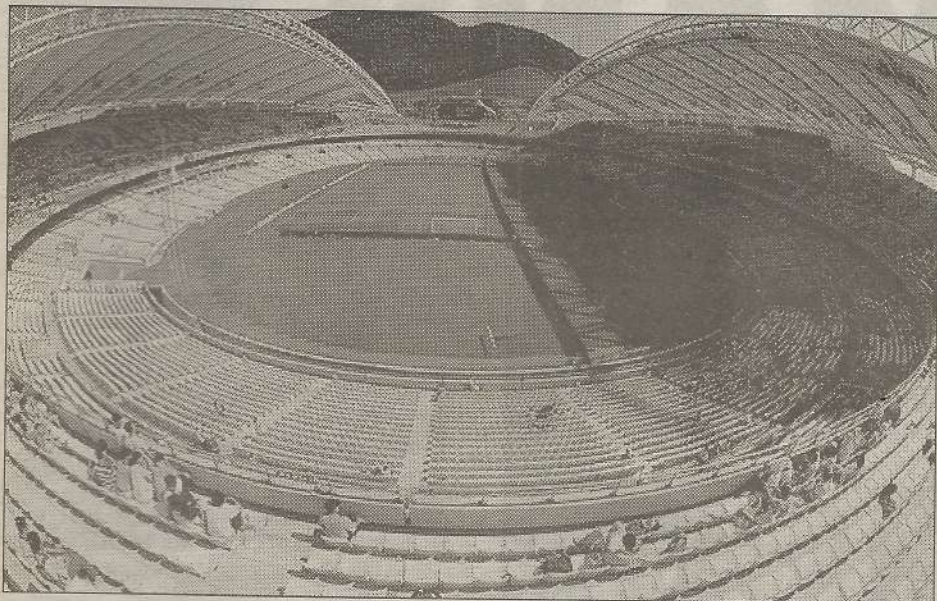
Daegu is a city known for its textile and fashion industries and the stadium's opening reflected that history. The Stadium is 11 km's from Daegu airport and 5 kms from East Daegu railway station.

Stadium Information:

504 Naehwan-dong, Suseong-gu, Daegu

Capacity: 68,014

Parking: 3,550



9. Shizuoka Stadium Ecopa, Japan

The prefecture of Shizuoka is the home of Japan's most famous landmark, Mount Fuji. The region's population of 3.8 million make it tenth largest of Japan's 47 prefectures. In Shizuoka, green tea is grown just about everywhere, as its climate is ideally suited for tea production, claiming about 45% of the total national crop.

The Shizuoka Football Association has approximately 40,000 players in 1,300 teams and two J.League teams, Jubilo Iwata and Shimizu S-pulse based in the prefecture. As Asian champions, Jubilo was going to compete against the likes of Oceania Champions the Wollongong Wolves in 2001's FIFA Club World Championship until it was postponed. There are more players in the J League from this area than any other part of Japan.

The World Cup has brought the opportunity for the region to build a brand-new stadium. The Shizuoka Stadium Ecopa, completed in March 2001, is a long way out of town, but easily accessible by a ten-minute walk from the new JR Tokaido railway station. It nestles in an area of gentle hills in the western part of Shizuoka Prefecture. The exterior of Shizuoka Stadium Ecopa is inspired by its surroundings, designed to reflect the image of the beautiful nearby Ogasayama. The 51,000-seater stadium will be the main feature of the newly created Ogasayama Sports Park and includes over 5,000 retractable seats to advance spectators closer to the football pitch in the centre of the athletics track.

Stadium Information:

Name: Shizuoka Stadium Ecopa

Ogasayama Sports Park, Aino, Fukuroi city

Access: Located 52 km from the centre of Shizuoka City

/ 10 min. walk from the

JR Tokaido Shinkansen Line.

Area: 5 hectares (Total Park area of 269 hectares)

Land occupied by building 30,875 m²

Total floor space 81,200 m²

Seating capacity: 50,600 (Include 5,500 removable seats)

Seating type: Two-level stand (individual seats with backs)

Roof: Teflon membrane (Covers all permanent seats)

Field 110m x 75m, natural grass

Construction cost ¥29,000,000,000



8. Oita, Japan

Oita is situated at the Eastern end of the island of Kyushu, the southernmost of ten communities. Oita is known for its hot springs. The locals claim that Beppu and Yuufuin are the best hot springs in Japan. A word that's well known around these spa towns is "Jigoku", which can be translated as "Hell Areas" and represents the forceful heating power of the naturally occurring hot springs. However the big aim of the area is to become a high tech industrial centre.

The "Big Eye" stadium, which will host the 2002 FIFA World Cup matches to be held in Oita, is an athletic sports stadium designed to be used not only for soccer, but for rugby union as well. Its spherical-shaped retractable roof allows the stadium to be used regardless of weather conditions for sports events as well as a variety of other kinds of events. The interior space of the stadium can be partitioned to allow for multipurpose usage. By sectioning off the interior, capacity can be set at 10,000 or 20,000 to host events such as concerts. The combination of the elliptical shape of the stadium and the spherical roof form a covered space called the "Foyer". Located on the first floor, the "Foyer" can be used as a multipurpose area during sporting and other events or at any other time. Attached to the upper support beam of the stadium, mobile cameras allow coverage to be filmed from above, creating a unique perspective from which to view games and events.

Rainwater is recycled from the off the roof for use by the toilets and also watering the grass, thereby making the stadium much more environmentally friendly.

Stadium Information:

Yokoo, Oaza Matsuoka, Oita City, inside the Oita Sports Park (area of park: 255 hectares)

Officially recognized as a top-level athletic sports stadium

by the Japan Amateur Athletic Federation. (9-lane track)

Pitch: 110 m x 74 m; covered with natural grass for use in warm climates that is preserved by an underground heating system.

Seating capacity: Approximately 43,000

Extendable surface area: 92,882m²

Building surface area: 52,234m²

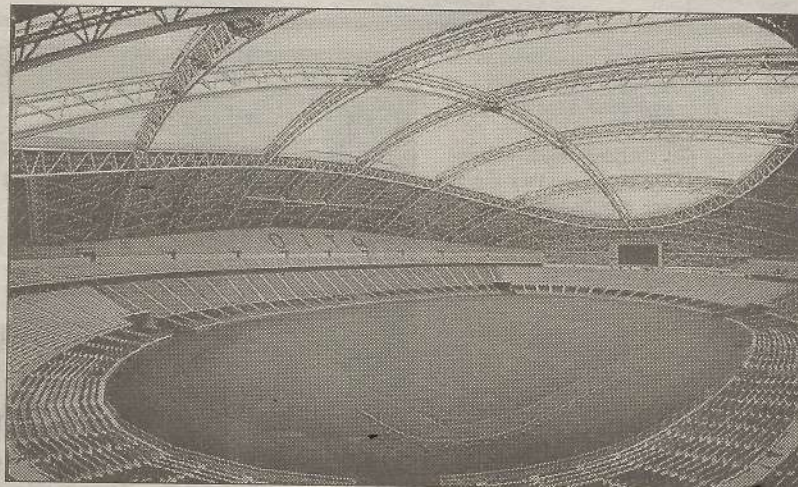
Levels: 3 aboveground levels and 2 underground levels

Roof height (at highest point) 61 m (from the field to the ceiling arch)

Retractable roof (opens/closes in approximately 20 minutes)

20 minutes by car from the JR Oita Station

15 minutes by car from the JR Takajo Station



10. Daejeon World Cup Stadium, South Korea

Daejeon is situated at the very heart of the South Korean peninsula and is a centre of administration and technology. It is known as the country's second administrative capital and incorporates a number of key government agencies. The city has a strong cultural heritage from the Baekjae Dynasty and this is still very much alive in the beauty of the nearby Kyeryong National Park.

In contrast inside the city itself there are approximately 70 leading research labs located in the Daedok Research Complex. Not only is it known as Korea's Silicon Valley but it also serves as the headquarters for the World Technopolis Association. In 1993 the Daejeon International Expo at the Expo Science Park had 14 million visitors.

The Daejeon World Cup Stadium is a football-only arena. It seats approximately 42,000 people and features a semi-closed roof, the first of its kind to be constructed in Korea. After the World Cup the pitch will be reserved exclusively for use by the city's professional football team, the Daejeon Citizens. However the stadium has many other facilities: including sports shops, a shopping mall, a youth hostel, a swimming pool, an indoor golf club, a fitness centre and a performance hall, which will all be open to the general public.

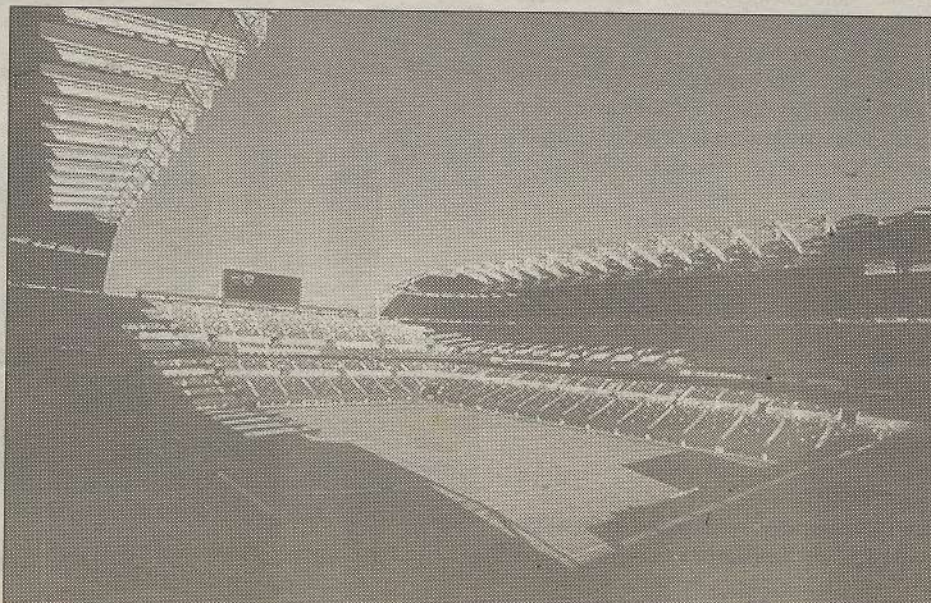
Stadium Information

Location: 270 Noeun-dong, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon

Capacity: 40,407

Parking: 3,188

Access: 30 min. from Cheongju Int'l Airport (Expressway) / 11 km from Daejeon Station / 9 km from West Daejeon Station / 15 km from Shintanjin Station.



Group E: Normally this group would be all about Germany but there poor form fairly recently has led to some suggestions that this may be the most open group of all. Cameroon continues to qualify but the indomitable Lions did not quite live up to their name last time and the question is will they this time? Saudi Arabia are always an unknown quantity but will certainly see it as a failure should they not make the second phase yet the bookies have made them second last favourite in the tournament, with only China behind them. The Irish supporters normally make the World Cup a fun affair and so it will be this time. They would also be confident of making the next round and even hold hopes of topping the group. The two teams that qualify play sides from Group B so there may be a real chance to move into the round of 16 for teams in this group.

HEAD TO HEAD PREVIEW

Germany v Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia have failed to win either of their opening games in the finals. Germany on the other hand (as Germany or West Germany) have only lost one of their opening games and they have appeared in 14 finals including every one of them since 1954. The good news for Saudi Arabia is their one loss was against unknown Algeria in 1982 so perhaps they can take confidence from that.

Ireland v Cameroon: Perhaps the biggest spectacle of this match will be off the park. Both supporter sets are colourful and noisy so the ground should be full of fun. On the pitch the Irish have never lost any of their opening matches, and that includes matches against Czechoslovakia, England and Italy. Certainly they gain a roll on from a first up match so this is probably the most vital of the three games. Cameroon of course have their famous victory over Argentina in 1990 but since have only got one point from opening matches against Sweden and Austria. Unlike off the pitch on it the view may not be pretty.

Germany v Ireland: This looks to be the match of the group stage for this set of teams. The last time these sides met in the finals was in 1958 and the game ended in a 2-2 stalemate after being 1-1 at half time. There is a strong possibility this match could end up having a very similar scoreline.

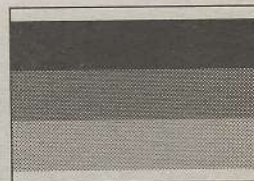
Cameroon v Saudi Arabia: Both sides will see this as a must win match for further qualification. Saudi Arabia defeated Morocco in a very similar style of match in 1994 but could only manage a draw against South Africa in 1998. Cameroon definitely have the experience factor in terms of crunch matches and with their recent African Nations victory will go in as favourites in this match.

Cameroon v Germany: Cameroon will be hoping the pressure is really on Germany because if the Germans try and sit back and counter it could well play into the hands of the African nation. Cameroon are certainly not afraid of the so called big named European countries and this is probably the hardest match to choose a winner for in this group.

Saudi Arabia v Ireland: Ireland will certainly be banking on the three points from this game to guarantee further progress. The Irish have never taken on a team from Asia in the finals before (in fact this will only be the fifth team out-side of Europe they have faced on the field of a World Cup Finals series) and that may well go against them. The Saudis surprised Belgium, winning 1-0, in a similar match in USA 1994 so the Irish can not take their opponents for granted.



GERMANY



Germany (or West Germany) have participated in all but two finals series. They may have struggled to qualify and be written off by most pundits but their pedigree in the finals is undebatable.

They would normally feel confident about waltzing through a group such as this one but should they slip up early the pressure from at home may be intolerable. It won't be easy for the Germans.

Achievements in Major Competitions

- Winner 1954 FIFA World Cup
- Winner 1974 FIFA World Cup
- Winner 1990 FIFA World Cup
- Runner-up 1966 FIFA World Cup
- Runner-up 1982 FIFA World Cup
- Runner-up 1986 FIFA World Cup
- 3rd 1934 FIFA World Cup
- 3rd 1970 FIFA World Cup
- 4th 1958 FIFA World Cup
- Quarter-final 1962 FIFA World Cup
- Quarter-final 1994 FIFA World Cup
- Quarter-final 1998 FIFA World Cup
- Winner UEFA European Championship 1972
- Winner UEFA European Championship 1980
- Winner UEFA European Championship 1996
- Runner-up UEFA European Championship 1976
- Semi-final UEFA European Championship 1988
- Runner-up UEFA European Championship 1992



German Team

Qualified:

Play off winners Europe (5-2 aggregate win over

Ukraine) (1-1 away, 4-1 home)

Runners up European Group 9 Pld 8 W 5 D 2 L 1 F 14 A 10 Pts 17 (against England (1st), Finland, Greece, and Albania)

Schedule:

Germany v Saudi Arabia Sapporo 21:30 AEST
Saturday 1st June (Nine - tbc)
Germany v Ireland Ibaraki 21:20 AEST
Wednesday 5th June (SBS)
Germany v Cameroon Shizuoka 21:30 AEST
Tuesday 11th June (Nine - tbc)

Finals record:

Germany PLD 77 W46 D14 L17 F155 A101 Total
Points in group stages 67 (at Half time F64 A37) Penalty
Shoot outs F13 A8

Germany

A Country Profile: Federal Republic of Germany
Population: 82,087,361
Form of Govt: Federal Republic
Population density: 230 per square km
Life expectancy: 77.2
Infant Mortality: 5.1 (per 1000)
Language: German
Literacy Rate: 99%
Religion: Protestant 45%
Economy: Industry 41%, Agriculture 6%, Services 53%

Odds: \$17 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)



SAUDI ARABIA



The Saudis have participated in the previous two World Cup Finals with some success in 1994 but disappointing failure in France 1998.

They once more qualified through Asia but things have not gone all their way lately and most are pointing to 2002 as being reflective of 1998 rather than 1994 for the Saudis. The team are coming off a run in the finals of four games without a win and have scored only seven times in their seven World Cup finals' matches.

Achievements in Major Competitions

- Champion Asian Cup 1984, 1988, 1996
- Runner Up Asian Cup 1992, 2000
- Winner FIFA U17 World Championship 1989

Qualified:

Winners of Asian Group A. Pld8 W5 D2 L1 F17 A8 Pts 17 (other teams in the group were Iran, Bahrain, Iraq, and Thailand)

Schedule:

Saudi Arabia v Germany apporo 21:30 AEST
Saturday 1st June (Nine - tbc)



Saudi Arabia Team

Saudi Arabia v Cameroon Saitama 18:50 AEST
Thursday 6th June (SBS)

Saudi Arabia v Ireland Yokohama 21:20 AEST
Tuesday 11th June (SBS)

Finals record:

Saudi Arabia PLD 7 W 2 D 1 L 4 F 7 A 13
Total Points in group stages: 7 (at half time F 5 A 4)
No penalty shoot outs.

A Country Profile: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Population: 21,504,613
Form of Govt: Monarchy
Population density: 11 per square km
Life expectancy: 70.6
Infant Mortality: 38.8 (per 1000)
Language: Arabic
Literacy Rate: 61.8%
Religion: Sunni Muslim 85%
Economy: Industry 14%, Agriculture 49%, Services 37%

Odds:

\$251 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)



IRELAND



The Irish have certainly gone beyond expectations in their last two appearances under Jack Charlton. Now with a new man in charge the side is optimistic once more, although don't expect too much change as Mick McCarthy did manage Millwall so the playing style may not be that unlike big Jack's side.

Roy and Robbie Keane are players the Irish will rely on and neither will die wondering. It will be more than the luck of the Irish (that got them this draw) that will get them into the second round for they certainly have the playing personnel to do so.

Achievements in Major Competitions

Quarter-final 1990 FIFA World Cup

Qualified:

Play off winners in Europe (on aggregate over Iran 2-1) 2-0 win at home, 1-0 loss away.

Pld 10 W7 D3 L0 F23 A5 Pts 24 (others Portugal (1st), Netherlands, Estonia, Cyprus, and Andorra)

Schedule:

Ireland v Cameroon Niigata 16:00 AEST
Saturday 1st June (SBS)



Ireland Team

Ireland v Germany Ibaraki 21:20 AEST
Wednesday 5th June (SBS)

Ireland v Saudi Arabia Yokohama 21:20 AEST
Tuesday 11th June (SBS)

Finals record:

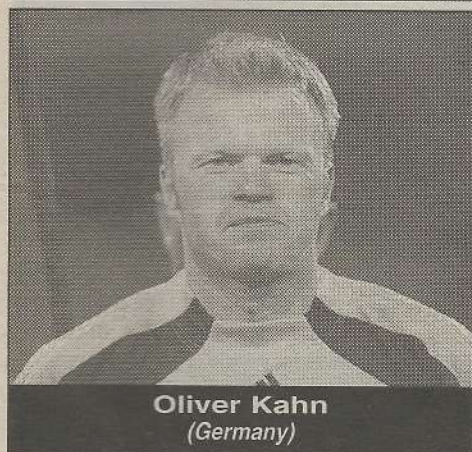
Ireland PLD 12 W 3 D 5 L 4 F 8 A 12 Total
Points in group stages: 10 (at half time F4 A8)
Penalty Shootouts: F5 A4

A Country Profile: Republic of Ireland

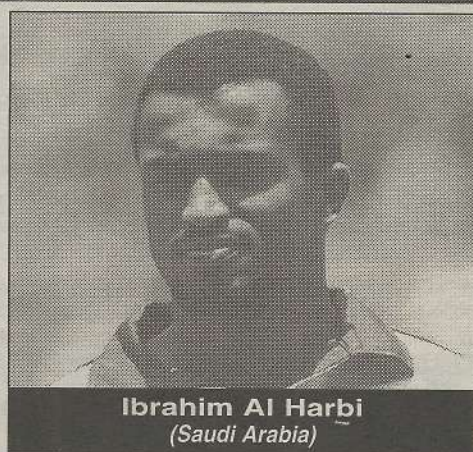
Population: 3,632,944
Form of Govt: Republic
Population density: 51.7 per square km
Life expectancy: 76.4
Infant Mortality: 5.9 (per 1000)
Language: Irish Gaelic, English
Literacy Rate: 99%
Religion: Roman Catholic 93%
Economy: Industry 18%, Agriculture 13%, Services 69%

Odds:

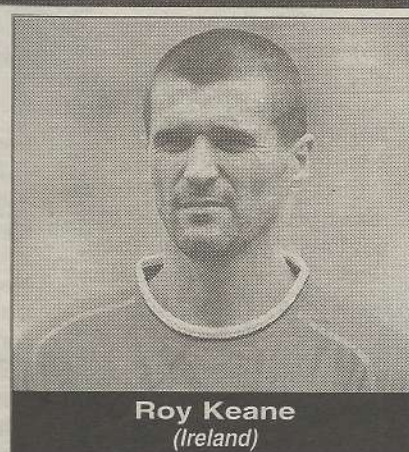
\$41 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)



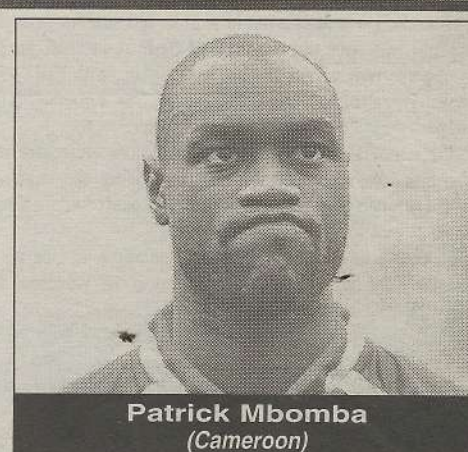
Oliver Kahn
(Germany)



Ibrahim Al Harbi
(Saudi Arabia)



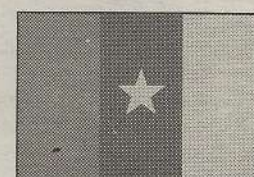
Roy Keane
(Ireland)



Patrick Mbomba
(Cameroon)



CAMEROON



Cameroon are a well known giant killer in World Cup Finals. However the giant killing qualities failed to materialise in the last two World Cups as they failed to win a match although did draw against Sweden, Austria and Chile.

They have recently won the African Nations Cup so go in with renewed confidence although soccer in Cameroon still go through regular troubles. Of all the African teams they are probably in the easiest group and will want to make at least the second round and as we saw in Italy in 1990 anything can happen from there. In the final stage of qualifiers the Lions only conceded four goals in eight games whilst scoring 14 (and they lost one of these matches!)

Achievements in Major Competitions

- Quarter final FIFA World Cup 1990
- Champion 1984, 1988, 2000, 2002 African Nations Cup
- Champion Olympic Games 2000
- Champion All African Games 1999
- Champion African u20 Championship 1995

Qualified:

Winners African Group Pld 8 W 6 D 1 L 1 F 14 A 4
Pts 19 (against Angola, Zambia, Togo, Libya)



Cameroon Team

Schedule

Cameroon v Ireland Niigata 16:00 AEST
Saturday 1st June (SBS)

Cameroon v Saudi Arabia Saitama 18:50 AEST
Thursday 6th June (SBS)

Cameroon v Germany Shizuoka 21:30 AEST
Tuesday 11th June (Nine - tbc)

Finals record:

Cameroon PLD 14 W 3 D 6 L 5 F 14 A 26 Total
Points in group stages 10 (at half time F1 A10)

A Country Profile: Republic of Cameroon

Population: 15,456,092
Form of Govt: Republic
Population density: 32.5 per square km
Life expectancy: 51.3
Infant Mortality: 75.7 (per 1000)
Language: French, English
Literacy Rate: 62.1%
Religion: Christian 33%
Economy: Industry 11%, Agriculture 75%, Services 14%

Odds:

\$31 (as of Beginning April 2002 Sportodds)

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

Tomorrow night, Wednesday May 11, is the return leg of the Italian Cup final between Parma and Juventus. The Turin giants won the first leg 2-1 and a scoreless draw will be enough for them to take the title.

As I have pointed out in this column for a couple of years now, the Italian Cup is really a secondary tournament that doesn't capture the imagination of the public.

It lacks the atmosphere and character of the English F.A. Cup. In fact the Italian Cup is not worthy of even a mention in the same line as the F.A. Cup.

Saturday night was as always a showpiece night of English soccer with the F.A. Cup final in Cardiff. This Wednesday night the Italian equivalent will go by in Italy virtually unnoticed. It is time the Italian Federation stop burying their heads in the sand and scrap the tournament.

The only value of the Italian Cup is a UEFA Cup place for the winner because a few years ago the European Cup Winners' Cup was scrapped by UEFA.

Italy should fall into line with UEFA and that UEFA Cup place should go to the next team, which as it currently stands is 7th place, on the Serie A ladder. Problem solved.

Most teams use the Italian Cup to give their bench players a run and this includes the final, which is on a home-and-away basis. The only thing that could save the tournament is if they turn it into a junior tournament; say perhaps an Under 21 event with absolutely no exceptions for older players.

Gianluca Vialli is a name from the not too distant past. The once golden boy of Italian football is well and truly out of the spotlight these days.

In case you are wondering he is the manager of Watford in the English First Division. The club didn't have a good season at all under his guidance but he will be retained for next year.

Vialli was once the megastar of Serie A football. In 1991 Sampdoria, now a Serie B club, won the title with Vialli as star player. His striking partner those days was Roberto Mancini and they were known as the "twin strikers."

Vialli moved on to Juventus for five more successful years. The highlight of his stint there was being the captain of Juventus when they won the 1996 Champions League final in Rome over Ajax Amsterdam.

Of course he ended his career in England with Chelsea and he later went on to be manager there too. He was one of the very first Italians to play in the English Premier League.

Vialli should have played a lot more for Italy but he was outspoken and that didn't please some coaches. It was Arrigo Sacchi who refused to select him when he took over the reigns of the national team in 1991.

Sadly for Vialli it was a personality clash that ended his international career. As a player he was a fantastic striker and deserved a lot more.

Many thought that when Vialli was manager of Chelsea it was some sort of apprenticeship for a future on the bench of a Serie A club.

These days Watford is as far away from the Serie A as possible. In fact his name is not even mentioned as a possible candidate when a Serie A vacancy arises. The irony for Vialli is that Mancini, who failed miserably this year at Fiorentina as coach before he left in January, has just been rewarded with the coaching job at Lazio for next season.

I guess it is a tale of two coaching careers that have gone in very different directions but the main difference has been luck. Mancini, a very good player in his day too but not quite as good as Vialli, has happened to be in the right place at the right time. Vialli, unfortunately, is stuck at Watford.

The World Cup will be the end for Paolo Maldini at international level. The most capped player ever for the Azzurri and arguably one of the all time greats has decided that this, his fourth World Cup, will be his last.

He still has two years to run on his contract at AC Milan and he has assured them that he will honour that commitment. Maldini has never played for any other club at a professional level.

Over the years there has been talk that he will end his career in England and Chelsea has been mentioned several times. However, it would appear that Maldini will stay put at the San Siro. It is a similar career path to another defensive legend for AC Milan and Italy, Franco Baresi. Only one club for his whole career. So what will Maldini do when he finally retires? It is uncertain but he has already stated that he will definitely not coach. He therefore won't be following in the footsteps of his dad Cesare, Maldini Sr, coach of Italy at France 98, is currently under a lot of fire in Paraguay. In fact he has stated that he will gladly step down especially since their friendly 4-0 loss to England.

It is hard to imagine though that Paolo will be lost to soccer all together. Media, club management or a football ambassador role would all suit the legendary defender.

JUVENTUS CLAIM SCUDETTO AS INTER CHOKES AT LAZIO

**UDINESE 0
JUVENTUS 2**

Juventus were crowned champions of Italy on Sunday in the most dramatic of circumstances as long-time leaders Inter Milan were beaten 4-2 by Lazio at the Olympic Stadium.

Juve got off to a flying start at Udinese where French striker David Trezeguet headed home his 24th goal of the season from Antonio Conte's cross after just two minutes.

Alessandro del Piero doubled Juve's lead on nine minutes, his cool finish rounding off a swift counter-attack.

**LAZIO 4
INTER 2**

All had been going to plan for Inter over at the Stadio Olimpico when Lazio goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi lost his bearings and Christian Vieri put the visitors ahead on 11 minutes.

Karel Poborsky, possibly playing his last match for the Rome club, levelled in the 19th minute after a one-two with Stefano Fiore, but Luigi Di Biagio promptly headed in to make it 2-1 to Inter.

Czech star Poborsky grabbed his second goal of the game just before half-time, though, when Vratislav Gresko under-hit a backpass and Inter old-boy Diego Simeone nodded Lazio into a 3-2 lead on 52 minutes from Fiore's free-kick.

Simone Inzaghi made the game safe with No 4 on 74 minutes as Lazio took sixth spot in the final table. Several Inter players, notably Ronaldo who was substituted late on, ended the match in tears.

**TORINO 0
ROMA 1**

Roma, two points behind Inter and one adrift of Juve before the start of play, overtook Inter for the runners-up spot by beating Torino with a 65th-minute goal



Inter's Alvaro Recoba in disappointment after losing the Scudetto title on the final day.



Juve's David Trezeguet and Alessandro Del Piero embrace after claiming the Scudetto title.

from Antonio Cassano.

The young substitute, controversially overlooked for Italy's Under-21 European Championship squad this week, accepted a pass from Vincenzo Montella and ran 50 yards before delicately lobbing goalkeeper Stefano Sorrentino.

The 2000-01 Scudetto holders therefore go automatically into the Champions' League first phase, while Inter must win a two-legged qualifier.

**MILAN 3
LECCE 0**

In Milan the AC Milan faithful celebrated Inter's collapse with a 3-0 win over Lecce as they fill the last place in the preliminary round of the Champions League.

Goals from Kakha Kaladze, Italian international midfielder Massimo Ambrosini and Ukraine international Andriy Shevchenko proved sufficient.

**BRESCIA 3
BOLOGNA 0**

The big losers of the day were Bologna who were comfortably beaten 3-0 away to Brescia and their only route into Europe is now via the Intertoto Cup.

Along the way Brescia ensured safety with Jonathan Bachini striking after the break. Roberto Baggio made it 2-0 with a penalty rebound after visiting goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca had saved his spot kick before Luca Toni added a late third.

**PIACENZA 2
VERONA 0**

Verona slipped into the bottom four with defeat at Piacenza. Sergio Volpi opened the scoring

mid-way through the first half and leading Piacenza marksman Dario Hubner made it 2-0 from the spot just after the interval.

Hubner scored again near the end to seal a comfortable win and draw level with Trezeguet at the top of the Serie A goalscorers' chart.

**CHIEVO 2
ATALANTA 1**

Surprise packages Chievo's magical season ending on a winning note with a 2-1 win over Atalanta to finish fifth.

Atalanta's Fausto Rossini gave the visitors from Bergamo the lead but goals from Bernardo Corradi and Federico Cossato earned Chievo a UEFA Cup spot, a remarkable achievement.

**PARMA 2
VENEZIA 1**

At Parma, bottom club Venezia gave the hosts a fright when Filippo Maniero bagged the 18th goal of what has been a successful season personally if a disastrous one for his club.

But Parma's Marco Di Vaio equalised from the penalty spot for his 20th goal of the season although he missed another after the break. But Frenchman Johan Micoud earned a 2-1 win for Parma.

**PERUGIA 2
FIORENTINA 0**

Goals from Fabio Bazzani and Brazilian Ze Maria gave Perugia a 2-0 win over Fiorentina who had Andrea Tarozzi sent off.

Brescia 3 Bologna 0, Chievo 2 Atalanta 1, Lazio 4 Inter 2, Milan 3 Lecce 0, Parma 2 Venezia 1, Perugia 2 Fiorentina 0, Piacenza 3 Verona 0, Torino 0 Roma 1, Udinese 0 Juventus 2.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pts
1. Juventus	34	20	11	3	64-23	71
2. Roma	34	19	13	2	58-24	70
3. Inter	34	20	9	5	62-35	69
4. Milan	34	14	13	7	47-33	55
5. Chievo	34	14	12	8	57-52	54
6. Lazio	34	14	11	9	50-37	53
7. Bologna	34	15	7	12	40-40	52
8. Perugia	34	13	7	14	38-46	46
9. Atalanta	34	12	9	13	41-50	45
10. Parma	34	12	8	14	43-47	44
11. Torino	34	10	13	11	37-39	43
12. Piacenza	34	11	9	14	49-43	42
13. Brescia	34	9	13	12	43-52	40
14. Udinese	34	11	7	16	41-52	40
15. Verona	34	11	6	17	41-53	39
16. Lecce	34	6	10	18	36-56	28
17. Fiorentina	34	5	7	22	29-63	22
18. Venezia	34	3	9	22	30-61	18



ENGLAND

FA CUP FINAL

ARSENAL CHELSEA

2
0

Arsenal buried the memory of last year's agonising FA Cup final defeat by Liverpool and completed the first half of an expected Double after glorious goals by Ray Parlour and Fredrik Ljungberg ripped the heart out of Chelsea



Arsenal players celebrate their 2-0 win over Chelsea in the FA Cup Final at the Millennium Stadium.

at a sun-drenched Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

There was little between the sides until Parlour struck on 69 minutes with a wonderful, curling strike from outside the area, and Ljungberg added the killer blow seven minutes later. The Swede powered his way through the Chelsea defence before unleashing another unstoppable bending shot past Carlo Cudicini.

The final scoreline was perhaps harsh on Chelsea, who were compact and determined throughout, but Arsenal created the better chances - and their goals were fit enough to win any final. Ironically, though, Arsenal struck just as it appeared Chelsea's confidence was lifting as they had begun to find a way through the Gunners' defence.

The game had been immediately sparked into life when Chelsea's Graeme Le Saux was booked less than two minutes into final after a

rash challenge on Arsenal star Lauren. Referee Mike Riley showed Le Saux a yellow card for going into the tackle with his foot high, though Lauren did appear to duck into the challenge.

Worryingly for Chelsea, Celestine Babayaro and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink both appeared to be feeling injuries in the early stages, though they began to run

ing header left Cudicini stranded, but drifted just wide of the post.

Vieira, who had broken up several Chelsea moves in midfield with strong challenges, overdid it on 26 minutes when he brought down Gudjohnsen and became the second player to earn a yellow card.

The play became scrappy as the half wore on, with both sides struggling to find space, but a great run by Gudjohnsen from deep almost brought its reward, but he was unable to connect properly with Le Saux's return pass.

Arsenal should, however, have taken the lead on 36 minutes. Great work by Ljungberg and Wiltord on the edge of the area saw the Frenchman get clear and produce a perfect cross for Lauren, but the Cameroonian header over when he should have done better.

Controversial offside decisions at both ends thwarted first Gudjohnsen and then Ljungberg as the half came to a close with Henry complaining to the referee.

Chelsea introduced virus-victim John Terry at half-time for the struggling Babayaro. Terry had missed out on the starting line-up after succumbing to a virus overnight which had left him dizzy and shaky on Cup final morning.

Gallas was moved to full-back and Terry went into his normal central defensive position. Almost immediately the new Chelsea backline was tested as Henry got free in the area, but Cudicini came to his defence's rescue with an excellent save from the Frenchman's sidefooted effort.

The incident sparked a frenetic start to the second period as the game opened up and Seaman had to be on his toes to turn over a long-range curling shot from the ever-dangerous Gudjohnsen.

Soon after, a strong run by

Gronkjaer down the right gave Le Saux an opportunity but his shot from the edge of the area was high and wide.

Arsenal were also relieved to be awarded a free-kick for a foul by Desailly on Adams after a furious goalmouth scramble following a corner.

Hasselbaink finally bowed to the injury which had been troubling him as Gianfranco Zola entered the fray after 67 minutes. Wiltord made a real hash of a half-chance for Arsenal, but on 69 minutes he made amends, combining superbly with Ray Parlour before the England man brilliantly curled the ball in from outside the area after Chelsea's defence backed off him.

Buoyed by the goal, Arsenal continued to stretch the Chelsea defence, and after Henry was denied by a brilliant Cudicini save, Ljungberg ripped the heart out of



Eider Gudjohnsen of Chelsea holds off Arsenal's Lauren.

the Blues on 76 minutes.

The Swede powered his way through the Chelsea defence before wickedly bending the ball round Cudicini. In doing so, Ljungberg became the first man in 40 years to score in successive FA Cup finals.

Last year his goal had not been enough against Liverpool, but there was never any chance that Arsenal would let this final away from them and they duly claimed their eighth FA Cup triumph.

GUNNERS CELEBRATE FA CUP VICTORY IN SYDNEY'S SCORE BAR

A crowd of over 200 Gunner's supporters turned up at the Score Bar at the Star City Casino Sydney to watch the FA Cup Final between Arsenal and Chelsea.

The place was full of trepidation before the match but by full time it was a dancing joyous place as the Arsenal won

2-0. As a side note it was very disappointing that the national anthem was missed by SBS so they could go to advertisements - hopefully this won't be the case for the World Cup. Plus the panel was fairly stale - surely there are some younger people who know about the English game SBS, why not use them?

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pts
1. Arsenal	36	24	9	3	74-33	81
2. Manchester Utd	36	24	4	8	87-44	76
3. Liverpool	36	22	8	6	58-27	74
4. Newcastle United	37	21	8	8	73-49	71
5. Chelsea	37	17	13	7	65-35	64
6. Leeds United	37	17	12	8	52-37	63
7. Tottenham Hotspur	37	14	8	15	48-51	50
8. West Ham United	37	14	8	15	46-56	50
9. Aston Villa	37	11	14	12	43-46	47
10. Middlesbrough	37	12	9	16	35-46	45
11. Fulham	37	10	14	13	36-41	44
12. Blackburn Rovers	36	11	10	15	49-47	43
13. Everton	37	11	10	16	42-53	43
14. Charlton Athletic	37	10	13	14	38-49	43
15. Southampton	37	11	9	17	43-53	42
16. Bolton Wanderers	37	9	13	15	43-60	40
17. Sunderland	37	10	9	18	28-50	39
18. Ipswich Town	37	9	9	19	41-59	36
19. Derby County	37	8	5	24	32-62	29
20. Leicester City	37	4	13	20	28-63	25

FIRST DIVISION

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL, 2ND LEG PLAY-OFF RESULT ON THURSDAY

Millwall 0 Birmingham 1 (John 90)
Birmingham win 2-1 on aggregate
Wolverhampton 1 (Cooper 77) Norwich 0
Norwich win 3-2 on aggregate
Birmingham play Norwich in final May 12

SECOND DIVISION

Brentford 2 (Powell 14, Owusu 46) Huddersfield 1
(Booth 2)
Brentford win 2-1
Cardiff 0 Stoke 2 (O'Connor 90, Oulare 115)
Stoke win 3-2
Brentford play Stoke in final May 12

NEXT WEEK'S FIXTURES

WEDNESDAY MAY 08, 2002

Liverpool v Blackburn Rovers
Man Utd v Arsenal

SATURDAY MAY 11, 2002

Southampton v Newcastle United
Sunderland v Derby County
West Ham Utd v Bolton Wanderers
Arsenal v Everton
Blackburn Rovers v Fulham
Chelsea v Aston Villa
Leeds United v Middlesbrough
Leicester City v Tottenham Hotspur
Liverpool v Ipswich Town
Man Utd v Charlton Athletic



Freddie Ljungberg scores Arsenal's second goal.

Spanish Primera Liga

AFTER 31 YEARS VALENCIA RECLAIM LA LIGA TITLE

Valencia defeated Malaga on Sunday to win their first Liga title for 31 years in a match delayed by almost ten minutes at the end of the first half following a controversial goal.

EL Che hit a hot streak in the run-in, winning six out of seven matches to lift only their second championship in 55 years - the fifth in their history - in coach Rafa Benitez's first campaign at the Mestalla.

The achievement, however, did not arrive without a healthy dose of contention.

Argentinian defender Roberto Ayala opened the scoring on 35 min-

utes after leaping impressively to head in from a corner, but the second goal caused a rumpus.

Referee Perez Burrull blew when his linesman had incorrectly flagged Fabio Aurelio offside following a through ball from Pablo Aimar.

The midfielder went on to score - firing into the top-right corner - but it appeared the goal had been ruled out after a lengthy conversation between Burrull and his assistant.

Malaga, chasing a Uefa Cup spot, were furious when the strike was eventually allowed to stand and the first half ran over by a huge margin as arguments rumbled on.

Valencia had looked inferior until the half-hour and were given an early scare when Mauricio Pellegrino had to clear off the line from Uruguay striker Dario Silva, put clean through by Curro Torres.

Kiki Musampa threatened every time he was given the ball on the left, although Valencia forward Miguel Angulo gave a warning of what was to come on 30 minutes when his shot from the edge of the box whistled narrowly wide.

The second goal proved a hammer blow for Malaga and the Andalusians never looked like getting back into the match after the break. One of few Valencia scoring opportunities went to Mista, who was unlucky to see his clever lob

drift wide late on.

Real Madrid saw their championship hopes dashed as they stuttered to a scoreless draw with relegation-threatened Real Mallorca. They will contest second spot with Depor next weekend on the final day of the season. Guti spurned two gilt-edged opportunities in the first half, scooping over from less than five yards and missing another sitter soon after, when Steve McManaman played him through inside the box.

Deportivo La Coruna despatched Real Betis 3-0 at the Manuel Ruiz de Lopera to assure themselves a Champions' League spot. Spain striker Diego Tristan struck twice, first on 18 minutes and again on 58

minutes, with Juan Carlos Valeron netting the third.

Barcelona virtually assured themselves of the fourth Champions' League spot with a 2-0 win over city rivals Espanyol at the Nou Camp.

Patrick Kluivert put Barca ahead just before the break when he hit the far corner after a pass from Marc Overmars and Xavi whacked home the second with 20 minutes to go.

Celta Vigo, battling for fourth position with Barca, came unstuck with a 2-1 loss to Seville.

Russian playmaker Alexander Mostovoi gave Celta the lead on six minutes but Mariano Toedtli equalised on 19 minutes and soon after gave Seville the lead.

Real Zaragoza were consigned to relegation when they lost 2-1 to Villarreal.

The Yellow Submarines went ahead at El Madrigal when Argentinian striker Martin Palermo struck on six minutes and doubled the lead when Rodolfo Arribas was on target.

Savo Milosevic pulled one back for the La Romareda side.

Barcelona 2 Espanyol 0, Villarreal 2 Zaragoza 1, Celta 1 Sevilla 2, Alaves 0 Rayo Vallecano 1, Athletic 1 Osasuna 1, Las Palmas 0 Tenerife 1, Real 0 Mallorca 0, Valladolid 1 Real Sociedad 3, Betis 0 Deportivo 3, Malaga 0 Valencia 2.

	P	W	D	L	FA	PL
1. Valencia	37	20	12	5	49-27	72
2. Real	37	19	9	9	69-41	66
3. Deportivo	37	19	8	10	62-41	65
4. Barcelona	37	18	9	10	64-36	63
5. Celta	37	16	12	9	64-45	60
6. Betis	37	15	14	8	42-32	59
7. Alaves	37	16	3	18	40-44	51
8. Sevilla	37	13	11	13	50-40	50
9. Malaga	37	12	14	11	42-43	50
10. Athletic	37	13	11	13	51-64	50
11. Valladolid	37	13	9	15	44-56	48
12. Espanyol	37	13	8	16	46-54	47
13. Real Sociedad	37	13	7	17	47-53	46
14. Rayo Vallecano	37	12	10	15	45-52	46
15. Villarreal	37	11	10	16	46-54	43
16. Osasuna	37	10	12	15	36-48	42
17. Mallorca	37	10	10	17	38-51	40
18. Las Palmas	37	9	12	16	39-49	39
19. Tenerife	37	10	8	19	30-55	38
20. Zaragoza	37	9	9	19	34-53	36

THIS WEEK

May 12, 2002

Zaragoza - Barcelona
Sevilla - Villarreal
R. Vallecano - Celta
Osasuna - Alaves
Tenerife - Athletic
R. Sociedad - Las Palmas
Mallorca - Valladolid
Deportivo - R. Madrid
Valencia - Betis
Espanyol - Malaga



Valencia's Vicente jumps over his teammates on the way to securing the La Liga title after 31 years

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 1 MAN UTD1

3-3 on aggregate (Bayer win on away goals)

Bayer Leverkusen went through to their first Champions' League final at the expense of Manchester United, who crashed out on away goals following a scrappy but entertaining draw at the BayArena.

Roy Keane put United ahead with a composed finish on 27 minutes after being put through by Ruud van Nistelrooy but Oliver Neuville

grabbed an equaliser just before half-time in an end-to-end encounter.

However, United went up the other end almost immediately and Ronny Johnsen saw a powerful header cleared off the line by Ze Roberto.

The hosts were dealt a blow early on when their captain Jens Nowotny was carried off just eight minutes in. It later emerged that the Germany international had damaged his cruciate ligaments, making him a major doubt for the World Cup.

He was replaced by Zoltan Sebesen after an innocuous clash with Van Nistelrooy.

As the half wore on United enjoyed

the majority of the possession and Johnsen had another effort well saved by Hans-Jorg Butt while Juan Sebastian Veron saw his low shot scrambled away.

However, Neuville struck with the last kick of the first half to put Leverkusen back in the driving seat.

The hosts came out for the second half in positive mood and almost went ahead on the night when Laurent Blanc gave the ball away, allowing Neuville to run in on goal.

The second period continued with Leverkusen happy to sit on their away goals advantage and hit United on the break. The visitors were guilty of



Manchester United's Ruud Van Nistelrooy tussles with Bayer star Boris Zivkovic in last week's Champions League Semi-Final.

squandering possession on a number of occasions with Veron particularly wasteful.

The latter stages saw United camped in Leverkusen's half and Butt was forced into an excellent save from a Keane drive.

Diego Forlan, who had come on for Wes Brown, then saw a delicate lob headed off the line before fellow substitute Ole Gunnar Solskjaer blazed over when well placed.

But Leverkusen were not to be denied and defended stubbornly to reach the final and a clash with either Real Madrid or Barcelona.

REAL MADRID ...1 BARCELONA1

Real Madrid wins 3-1 on aggregate

Real Madrid invited Barcelona pressure for much of this Champions' League semi-final second leg, but still escaped with a draw courtesy of Raul's venomous first-half drive.

Barca battled hard and pulled level right after the break when Ivan Helguera deflected past his own goalkeeper, but the Catalans then contrived to miss a series of chances as their bitter rivals set up a date with Bayer Leverkusen in Glasgow.

Xavi was their main creative outlet on the sodden Bernabeu turf and one of his crosses from the right almost fell to Phillip Cocu via a nod-down, only for Real goalkeeper Cesar to whip the ball off his toe.

Visiting goalkeeper Roberto Bonano was forced into the first save of the night when he kept out Guti's shot at the near post. Raul broke from midfield and put his Spain colleague in the clear, forcing the Argentina star to block as Guti shot from the right of the box.

Real had hardly shown anything as an attacking force, but they took the lead at the end of a disappointing first half when Raul hammered unerringly into the top-right corner from 25 yards.

The Spain striker won possession when Xavi dallied in midfield and collected the ball back from Zidane before beating Bonano for his first goal in 13 matches.

Barca could have crumbled, but they came out after half time with greater intent and were rewarded when Real defender Helguera deflected home a Javier Saviola shot.



Real Madrid playmaker Raul tries to slice through Dutch defender Frank De Boer in last week's encounter in Spain.

A fierce cross from the left was diverted goalwards by Saviola, but Real No 1 Cesar looked to have it covered until his centre-back stuck out a boot.

Kluivert was equally profligate on 85 minutes when he wriggled clear in the box, then Barca substitute Giovanni blazed high

of the target as the hosts defended poorly again.

Not that the home fans were complaining at the final whistle as their side marched on to yet another Champions' League final - and one they will be hot favourites to win.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

Wednesday 15th May - Hampden Park, Glasgow.



REAL MADRID (SPAIN)

VS

BAYER LEVERKUSEN (GERMANY)





SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

RANGERS' DOWN CELTIC
IN CUP CLASSIC

An injury-time goal from Peter Lovenkrands handed Rangers a dramatic 3-2 Scottish Cup final win over Old Firm rivals Celtic at Hampden Park here Saturday.

The match was heading for extra-time when Danish forward Lovenkrands headed in Neil McCann's cross for his second goal of the match.

It capped a magnificent fight back for Rangers, who twice came from behind to secure a domestic cup double of their own.

Rangers captain Barry Ferguson led from the front, the midfielder's 69th minute free-kick making it 2-2.

But afterwards delighted boss Alex McLeish admitted his skipper could be on the way out of Ibrox.

"The chairman has spoken to Barry and everybody is agreed that if Barry feels it is right to go and Rangers feel it is right to go then we have to compromise and have some sort of agreement," said McLeish.

"He may feel he wants another crack at the championship as a captain and time will tell if that's the case," the former Scotland defender added.

"He is a winner, a first-choice man and I think he can go anywhere in England. One or two teams have great players already in position so you have to rule those out - but I would like to keep him here at Rangers."

Meanwhile Celtic manager Martin O'Neill admitted his gamble on the fitness of recently injured quartet of captain Paul Lambert, Chris Sutton, Bobo Balde and Neil Lennon had not worked.

Lambert in particular was all but anonymous and Sutton was beaten for pace by Lovenkrands in the build-up to Rangers' first equaliser.

"Eventually we probably didn't have the energy that we normally associate with ourselves."

"That's probably understandable with a couple of players just back," said O'Neill.

"It was a gamble with the likes of Bobo Balde and Chris Sutton not having had any match practice at all, but I was prepared to go with it as needs must."

"But for however long you are never sure, but it was a really good game and I am very disappointed," he added.

Celtic went ahead in the 19th minute. Rangers were down to 10 men with Argentina striker Claudio Caniggia off the field with a knee injury after a clash with Sweden's Johan Mjallby.

Veteran striker Caniggia, 35, appeared to be going down anyway as Mjallby obstructed him.

He was later reported to have aggravated an existing knee injury which threatened to derail his bid for a World Cup berth.

But there is never much sympathy from the opposition in a Glasgow derby and this time was no different as Celtic striker John Hartson powered his way down the right, forcing Rangers keeper Stefan Klos to tip over his cross.

Alan Thompson's well-flighted resulting corner was headed down at the far post by defender Balde.

With Klos still rooted to his line, Wales forward Hartson nodded in from barely five yards out.

But the lead lasted barely two minutes.

Celtic duo Johan Mjallby and Sutton went for the same long ball, with the Swede heading it a few yards forward.

The ball fell into the path of Lovenkrands who advanced and then beat Rob Douglas at the Celtic keeper's near-post in the 21st minute. All square at half-time, Celtic regained the lead five minutes after the break, scoring again from a dead-ball situation.

Lennon swung over a free-kick from the left and Balde rose in front of opposing defender Lorenzo Amoroso at the far post to head the ball past Klos.

But Rangers refused to lie down, Ferguson rattling the woodwork from 25-yards out.

However, a few minutes later, Celtic's luck did not hold as Balde crashed into Amoroso on the edge of his own box to concede the free-kick.

This time Ferguson would not be denied, his curling effort flying past the poorly positioned Douglas and into the top right corner. And with seven minutes to go the goalkeeper made another error, his fumble allowing Fernando Ricksen a shot that was cleared off the line by Mjallby. But there was nothing Douglas could do about Lovenkrands' winner.

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

DORTMUND SEAL
BUNDESLIGA CROWN

Borussia Dortmund came from behind to beat Werder Bremen 2-1 and pip Bayer Leverkusen and Bayern Munich to the Bundesliga title. Brazilian midfielder Ewerthon scored a late winner just 60 seconds after coming on for Jorg Heinrich to ensure the win.

Dortmund, who went into the final day of the season needing maximum points to clinch the title, were up against it when Paul Stalteri put the visitors ahead on 17 minutes.

Dortmund were boosted by the return of Dede three weeks after knee surgery - but it was Czech forward Jan Koller who got them back into the game with a 42nd-minute leveller.

Matthias Sammer's side pushed for the goal that would have sealed the title and 16 minutes from time, Ewerthon scored the crucial goal.

That result ensured that Bayer Leverkusen once again miss out on the elusive title. Missing the injured Jens Nowotny and suspended Boris Zivkovic, Bayer got off to the perfect start against Hertha Berlin when midfielder and leading scorer Michael Ballack scored after ten minutes.

Ballack continued his fine run of form - and signed off in his last game for Leverkusen with another goal seven minutes into the restart. Stefan Beinlich scored for Hertha but it was not enough and Bayer won 2-1.

Ballack's next club Bayern Munich finish the season empty-handed for the first time since 1995 despite beating Hansa Rostock 3-2. Steffen Baumgart put Bayern ahead with an own goal just before the break. Mehmet Scholl doubled their lead before Giovane Elber and Kevin Hansen and Marcus Lantz added late strikes.

Elsewhere, Tomislav Maric scored twice to give Wolfsburg a 2-1 win at Schalke, for whom Gerald Asamoah scored a consolation.

Hertha, Schalke and Bremen qualified for Uefa Cup, while Kaiserslautern, Stuttgart, 1860 Munich will play in the InterToto Cup.

Borussia Monchengladbach lost to 1860 Munich 4-2 despite going ahead through Igor Demo's sixth-minute opener. Daniel Bierofka levelled up on 25 minutes and bagged a second one minute after the restart. Davor Suker added a third before Arie van Lent pulled one back but Suker restored the two-goal advantage.

Nuremberg won at St Pauli 3-2. Junior and Kai Michalke scored for the visitors on either side of a Nico Patschinski strike, and Michalke added a third to seal the win.

Freiburg beat Hamburg 4-3, despite Rodolfo Cardoso putting the visitors ahead. His team-mate Milan Fukal to put through his own net to equalise. Soumaila Coulibaly put Freiburg ahead before Bernardo Romeo made it 2-2. Romeo and Coulibaly then scored again to make it 3-3 and Coulibaly scored a third to win the game.

Markus Kurth scored for Cologne, who beat Energie Cottbus 3-2. Dirk Lotterer added two quick goals in a five-minute spell on the hour-mark.

Stuttgart beat Kaiserslautern 4-3, Silvio Meissner breaking the deadlock before Lincoln equalised from the spot. Sean Dundee added a second on 46 minutes but Marian Hristov equalised again. Meissner netted his second before Miroslav Klose scored but Ionel Ganea put Stuttgart ahead a fourth time.

Bayer 2 Hertha 1, St. Pauli 2 Nurnberg 3, Borussia (D) 2 Werder 1, Freiburg 4 Hamburger 3, Energie 2 Cologne 3, Stuttgart 4 Kaiserslautern 3, Bayern 3 Hansa 2, Borussia (M) 2 1860 Munchen 4, Schalke 04 1 Wolfsburg 2.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Borussia (D)	34	21	7	6	62-33	70
2. Bayer	34	21	6	7	77-38	69
3. Bayern	34	20	8	6	65-25	68
4. Hertha	34	18	7	9	61-38	61
5. Schalke 04	34	18	7	9	52-36	61
6. Werder	34	17	5	12	54-43	56
7. Kaiserslautern	34	17	5	12	62-53	56
8. Stuttgart	34	13	11	10	47-43	50
9. 1860 Munchen	34	15	5	14	59-59	50
10. Wolfsburg	34	13	7	14	57-49	46
11. Hamburger	34	10	10	14	51-57	40
12. Borussia (M)	34	9	12	13	41-53	39
13. Energie	34	9	8	17	36-60	35
14. Hansa	34	9	7	18	35-54	34
15. Nurnberg	34	10	4	20	34-57	34
16. Freiburg	34	7	9	18	37-64	30
17. Cologne	34	7	8	19	26-61	29
18. St. Pauli	34	4	10	20	37-70	22

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

WHO WILL THE GREEK
CHAMPION BE?

With every European competition coming to an end in Europe, the Greek First Division will be decided on Wednesday night where the title could go to three teams.

Olympiakos is in the box seat playing Aris away, always a tough task,

however with the title in sight, the red devils look firm favourites. The only major problem for the squad is the injury to French International Christian Karembau who looks even more likely to miss the 2002 World Cup.

Second placed AEK ATHENS, on level points with Olympiakos, entertain tough guys PAOK SALONIKA at home. AEK will be full of confidence after their Greek Cup victory over Olympiakos and will use that as an incentive to go for that elusive double this season.

Finally, Panathinaikos have a slim chance of winning the title as they play guests to lowly Ethnikos Asteras. The Green army did ever so well to reach the final eight of the Champions League this season are hoping to get at least second spot to better their position in the Champions League next time round.

Panahiki and Ethnikos Asteras have been relegated to the Greek 2nd

Division, two other spots are also up to join the strugglers. Overall, it's been one of the best Greek First Division campaigns in years and looks set to go down the wire a la Italian Serie A style.

8-5-02 WEDNESDAY FINAL GREEK
FIRST DIVISION FIXTURES:

Iraklis - Panionios

Ethnikos Asteras - Panathinaikos

Aris - Olympiakos Piraeus

AEK Athens - PAOK

Aigaleo - Akrotiris

Ioniko - Panahiki

Xanthi - OFI Crete



Olympiakos Squad.



AEK players celebrate the Greek Cup win.



Panathinaikos Squad.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Olympiakos Piraeus	25	16	7	2	64	29	55
AEK Athens	25	18	1	6	59	26	55
Panathinaikos	25	15	7	3	51	24	52
PAOK T'saloniki	25	14	6	5	53	39	48
Xanthi	25	11	6	8	32	25	39
Iraklis	25	9	8	8	31	34	35
Panionios	25	8	10	7	36	32	34
OFI Crete	25	9	6	10	31	33	33
Aris T'saloniki	25	7	8	10	24	29	29
Aigaleo	25	6	5	14	25	45	23
Akrotiris	25	6	5	14	28	39	23
Ionikos	25	5	7	13	21	45	22
Eth. Asteras	25	4	5	16	18	42	17
Panahiki	25	2	9	14	24	55	15

WORLD LEAGUES

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

RKC 3 Vitesse 2, Heerenveen 0 Twente 0, Sparta 0 Groningen 0, Willem II 0 Feyenoord 0, De Graafschap 2 PSV 2, Den Bosch 0 AZ 1, Utrecht 0 NAC 0, Fortuna 0 Roda 0, NEC 0 Ajax 2.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
1. Ajax	34	22	7	5	73-34	73
2. PSV	34	20	8	6	77-32	68
3. Feyenoord	34	19	7	8	68-29	64
4. Heerenveen	34	17	9	8	57-27	60
5. Vitesse	34	16	12	6	45-34	60
6. NAC	34	15	9	10	55-52	54
7. Utrecht	34	14	9	11	60-51	51
8. RKC	34	14	6	14	49-44	48
9. NEC	34	13	6	15	38-59	45
10. AZ	34	12	7	15	43-45	43
11. Willem II	34	10	13	11	54-61	43
12. Twente	34	10	12	12	41-41	42
13. Roda	34	11	8	15	33-45	41
14. De Graafschap	34	10	7	17	43-55	37
15. Groningen	34	10	7	17	40-59	37
16. Den Bosch	34	8	9	17	40-55	33
17. Sparta	34	4	12	18	26-75	24
18. Fortuna	34	3	8	23	27-71	17

FRENCH CHAMPIONNAT

Auxerre 2 Rennes 3, Guingamp 1 Troyes 0, Lille 1 Paris Saint Germain 0, Olympique (L) 3 Lens 1, Olympique (M) 1 Montpellier 0, Metz 1 Lorient 1, Nantes 2 Bordeaux 1, Sedan 0 Bastia 2, Sochaux 3 Monaco 0.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
*1. Olympique (L)	34	20	6	8	62-32	66
2. Lens	34	18	10	6	55-30	64
3. Auxerre	34	16	11	7	48-38	59
4. Paris St Germain	34	15	13	6	43-24	58
5. Lille	34	15	11	8	39-32	56
6. Bordeaux	34	14	8	12	34-31	50
7. Troyes	34	13	8	13	40-35	47
8. Sochaux	34	12	10	12	41-40	46
9. Olympique (M)	34	11	11	12	34-39	44
10. Nantes	34	12	7	15	35-41	43
11. Bastia	34	12	5	17	38-44	41
12. Rennes	34	11	8	15	40-51	41
13. Montpellier	34	9	13	12	28-31	40
14. Sedan	34	8	15	11	35-39	39
15. Monaco	34	9	12	13	36-41	39
16. Guingamp	34	9	8	17	34-57	35
17. Metz	34	9	6	19	31-47	33
18. Lorient	34	7	10	17	43-64	31

CROATIAN FIRST DIVISION

Hajduk Split 4 Slaven Belupo 1, Rijeka 3 Hrvatski Dragovoljac 2, Zagreb 1 Kamen Ingrad 1, Varteks 2 Cakovec 1, Marsonia 1 Dinamo Zagreb 2, TSK 1 Pomorac 3, Zadar 3 Sibenik 2, Osijek 0 Cibalia 0.

	P	W	D	L	FA	Pt
*1. Zagreb	30	20	7	3	71	24 67
2. Hajduk Split	30	20	5	5	61	28 65
3. Dinamo Zagreb	30	18	5	7	58	30 59
4. Varteks	30	17	6	7	58	39 57
5. Rijeka	30	15	6	9	46	37 51
6. Slaven Belupo	30	11	9	10	34	36 42
7. Pomorac	30	12	4	14	36	41 40
8. Osijek	30	11	4	15	45	48 37
9. Cibalia	30	9	9	12	34	37 36
10. Sibenik	30	10	6	14	33	36 36
11. Zadar	30	9	9	12	43	47 36
12. Kamen Ingrad	30	9	8	13	28	46 35
13. Hrvatski Drag.	30	9	7	14	34	45 34
14. Cakovec	30	9	5	16	31	44 32
15. Marsonia	30	8	6	16	37	46 30
16. TSK	30	4	2	23	31	95 14

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

GRAND FINAL 2001 / 2002

SUNDAY MAY 12 AT SUBIACO OVAL - 3PM AET / 1PM LOCAL TIME

PERTH GLORY



- 1 — Jason Petkovic
- 2 — Matthew Horsley
- 3 — Jaime Harnwell
- 7 — Scott Miller
- 8 — Brad Maloney
- 10 — Bobby Despotovski
- 12 — Brad Hassell
- 15 — Edgar-Aldrighi Junior
- 16 — Damian Mori
- 18 — Shane Pryce
- 23 — David Tarka
- 5 — Craig Deans
- 9 — Alistar Edwards
- 17 — Gary Faria
- 26 — Nick Mrdja
- 20 — Vince Matassa

Coach:

Mich D'Avray



OLYMPIC SHARKS



- 1 — Clint Bolton
- 4 — Paul Kohler
- 7 — Lindsay Wilson
- 8 — Tom Pondeljak
- 10 — Troy Halpin
- 11 — Jade North
- 16 — Jeromy Harris
- 19 — Ante Milicic
- 23 — Andrew Packer
- 28 — Ante Juric
- 6 — Wayne Shroj
- 9 — Dylan Macallister
- 14 — Greg Owens
- 27 — Hiroyuki Ishida
- 2 — Steve Laybutt

Coach:

Gary Phillips



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